THE TRIVMPH OF TIME.

WHEREIN IS DISCOVERED BY *A PLEASANT HYSTORIE, THAT* although by the meanes of ſiniſter *Fortune*, *TRVTH* may be concealed, yet by *TIME* in ſpite of *Fortune*, it is moſt manifeſtly Reuealed.

Pleaſant for age to auoid drowſie thoughts, profitable for Youth, to eſchue other wanton Paſtimes; and bringing to both a deſired Content.

Temporis filia, Veritas.

By *Robert Greene*, Maiſter of Arts in *Cambridge*.

Omne tulit punctum qui miſcuit vtile dulci.

LONDON,
Printed by T. C. for G. *Potter*, and are to be ſolde by *Iohn Tap*, at his ſhop, neere *S. Magnus corner*. 1614.

TO THE GENTLEMEN READERS, HEALTH.

THe paultry Poet APHRANIVS *being blamed for troubling the Emperour* TRAIAN, *with so many Doating Poemes: adventured not withstanding, still to present him with Rude and homely Verses, excusing himselfe with the courtesie of the Emperour, which did as friendly accept, as hee fondly offered.*

So Gentlemen, If any condeme my rashnesse, for troubling your Eares with so many unlearned Pamphlets, I will straight shrowd my selfe vnder the shadow of your Courtesies, and with Aphranius, *lay the blame on you; As well on you for friendlie Reading them, as on my selfe fondlie Penning them. Hoping, though fond, curious, or rather curriſh Back-byters breathe out slanderous speeches: Yet the courteous Readers (whom I feare to offend) will requite my Trauell, at the least with Silence: And in this Hope, I rest: wishing you health & happines.*

Robert Greene.

TO THE RIGHT HONOVRABLE, GEORGE *Clyfford* Earle of *Cumberland*; *Robert Greene* wisheth increase of Honour and vertue.

THE *Rascians* (Right Honourable) when by long gazing against the Sunne, they become halfe blinde, recouer their sights by looking on the blacke *Load-stone*: *Vnicorns* being glutted with brousing on roots of *Lycoras*, sharpen their stomackes, with crashing bitter grasse. *Alexander* vouchsafed as well to smile at the crooked picture of *Vulcan* as to wonder at the curious counterfeit of *Venus*. The minde is sometimes delighted as much with small trifles, as with sumptuous Triumphs; and as well pleased with hearing of *Pans* homely fancies, as of *Hercules* renowned Labours.

Silly *Baucis* could not serue *Iupiter* in a siluer plate, but in a wodden-dish. All that honor *Æsculapius* decke not his shrine with Iewels. *Apollo* giues Oracles, as well to the poore man for his mite, as to the rich man for his treasure. The stone *Echites* is not so much liked for the colour, as for vertue: and gifts are not to be measured by the worth, but by the will. *Mison* that vnskilfull Painter of *Greece*, accustomed to giue vnto *Dame Pallas*, the shielde of *Pallas*, so roughly shadowed, as hee smyled more at the follie of the Man, then at the imperfection of the Art. So I present vnto your Honour *The Triumph of Time*, so rude-

rudely finished, as I feare your Honour will rather frowne at my impudencie, then laugh at my Ignorance: But I hope my willing minde shall excuse my slender skill, and your Honours courtesie shadow my rashnes.

They which feare the byting of *Vipers*, doe carrie in their hands the plumes of a *Phœnix*. *Phydias* drew *Vulcan* sitting in a chayre of Yuorie. *Cæsars*-Crowe durst neuer crye *Aue*, but when she was pearked on the *Capitoll*. And I seeke to shrowd this imperfect Pamphlet vnder your Honors Patronage, doubting the dint of such invenomed-Vipers, as seeke with theyr slanderous reproches to carpe at all, being oftentimes most vnlearned of all: and assure my selfe, that your Honours renowned valour, and vertuous disposition, shall be sufficient defence to protect me from the poysoned tongues of such scorning Sycophants; hoping that as *Jupiter* vouchsafed to lodge in *Philemons* thatched Cottage; & *Phillip* of *Macedon*, to take a bunch of grapes of a Countrey-Peasant: So I hope your Honour measuring my worke by my will, and weighing more the minde, then the matter, will (when you haue cast a glaunce at this toy) with *Minerua*, vnder your golden Target, couer a deformed Owle. And in this hope I rest, Wishing vnto you and the vertuous Countesse your Wife, such happy successe as your Honours can desire or imagine.

Your Lordships most dutifull

to commaund,

Robert Greene.

N.B. This History is the Foundation of Shakespears Winters Tale.

THE HISTORIE OF DORASTVS AND FAWNIA.

AMongst all the passions wherewith humane mindes are perplexed, there is none that so galleth with restlesse despight, as that infectious sore of iealousie: For all other griefs are eyther to bee appeased with sensible perswasions, to be cured with wholsome Counsell, to be relieued in want, or by tract of time to be worne out, iealousie onely excepted, which is seuced with suspitious doubts, and pinching mistrust, that who so seeke by friendly counsell to rase out this hellish passion, it forthwith suspecteth that he giueth this aduice to couer his owne guiltinesse. Yea who so is pinched with this restles torment, doubteth all, distrusteth himselfe, is allwaies frozen with feare, and fired with suspition, hauing that wherein consisteth all his ioy, to be the bréeder of his miserie. Yea it is such an heauie enemie to that holy estate of matrimonie, sowing betweene the married couples such deadly séedes of secret hatred, as loue being once rased out by spitefull distrust, thereof ensueth bloudy reuenge, as this ensuing history manifestly proueth: wherein Pandosto (furiously incensed by a causelesse iealousie) procured the death of his most louing and loyall wife, and his owne endlesse sorrow and misery.

IN the country of Bohemia, there reigned a King called Pandosto, whose fortunate successe in warres against his foes, and bountifull curtesie towards his friendes in peace, made him to bee greatly feared and loued of all men. This Pandosto had to wife a Ladie called Bellaria, by birth royall, learned by education, faire by nature, by vertues famous: so that it was hard to iudge, whether her beautie, Fortune, or vertue, wan the

greatest commendations. These two linked together in perfect loue, led their liues with such fortunate content, that their subiects greatly reioyced to see their quiet disposition. They had not bin married long, but fortune (willing to increase their happinesse) lent them a Sonne, so adorned with the gifts of nature, as the perfection of the Childe greatly augmented the loue of the Parents, and the ioy of their Commons: in so much that the Bohemians to shew their inward loyes by outward actions, made Bonefires and triumphs throughout all the Kingdome, appoynting Iusts and Turneyes for the honour of their young Prince: whither resorted not onely his Nobles, but also diuers Kings and Princes which were his Neighbours, willing to shew their friendship they ought to Pandosto, and to winne fame and glory by their prowesse and valour. Pandosto whose minde was fraught with Princely liberalitie, entertained the Kings, Princes and Noblemen with such submisse curtesie, and magnificall bountie, that they all saw how willing hee was to gratifie their good wils, making a generall feast for his subiects, which continued by the space of twentie dayes; al which time the Iusts and Turneys were kept to the great content both of the Lords and Ladies there present. This solemne triumph being once ended, the assembly taking their leaue of Pandosto and Bellaria, the young sonne (who was called Garinter) was nursed vp in the house, to the great ioy and content of the Parents. Fortune enuious of such happy successe, willing to shew some signe of her inconstancy, turned her wheele, and darkned their bright Sunne of prosperitie with the mistie clouds of mishap and misery. For it so happened that Egistus king of Sycilia, who in his youth had been brought vp with Pandosto, desirous to shew that neither trace of time nor distance of place could diminish their former friendship, prouided a Nauy of ships and sailed into Bohemia, to visit his old friend and companion: who hearing of his arriuall went himselfe in person and his wife Bellaria, accompanied with a great traine of Lords and Ladies, to meet Egistus: and espying him, alighted from his horse, embraced him very louingly, protesting, that nothing in the world could haue happened more acceptable to him then his comming, wishing his wife as welcome his olde friend and acquaintance: who (to shew how she liked

him

him whom her husband loued) entertayned him with such familiar curtesie, as Egistus perceiued himselfe to be very well welcome. After they had thus saluted and embraced each other, they mounted againe on horse-backe, and rode toward the Citie, deuising and recounting, how being children they had passed their youth in friendly pastimes: where, by the meanes of the Citizens, Egistus was receiued with triumphes and shewes, in such sorte, that he marueiled how on so small a warning, they could make such preparation. Passing the streetes thus with such rare sights, they rode on to the Pallace: where Pandosto entertayned Egistus & his Sycilians with such banquetting and sumptuous cheare, so royally, as they had all cause to commend his Princely liberalitie: yea, the very basest slaue that was knowne to come from Sycilia was vsed with such curtesie, that Egistus might easily perceiue, how both he and his were honoured for his friends sake. Bellaria (who in her time was the flower of curtesie) willing to shew how vnfainedly she loued her husband, by his friends entertainment, vsed him likewise so familiarly, that her countenance bewrayed how her minde was affected towards him: oftentimes comming her selfe into his bedchamber, to see that nothing should be amis to mislike him. This honest familiaritie increased daily more and more betwixt them: for Bellaria noting in Egistus a Princely and bountifull minde, adorned with sundry and excellent qualities, and Egistus finding in her a vertuous and courteous disposition, there grew such a secret vniting of their affections, that the one could not well be without the company of the other: insomuch that when Pandosto was busied with such vrgent affaires: that hee could not be present with his friend Egistus, Bellaria would walke with him in the garden, and there they two in priuate pleasant deuises, would passe away their time to both their contents. This custome still continuing betwixt them, a certaine melancholy passion entring the minde of Pandosto, driues him into sundry & doubtfull thoughts. First, he called to minde the beautie of his wife Bellaria, the comlineſſe and brauerie of his friend Egistus, thinking that loue was aboue all Lawes, and therefore to bee stayed with no law: that it was hard to put fire and flare together without burning, that their open pleasures might breede

his

his secret displeasures. He considered with himselfe, that Egistus was a man, & must needes loue: that his wife was a woman, and therefore subiect to loue: and that where fancy forced, friendship was of no force. These & such like doubtfull thoughts a long time smothering in his stomacke, began at last to kindle in his minde a secret mistrust, which increased by suspition, grew at last to flaming iealousie, that so tormented him as he could take no rest. He then began to measure all their actions, and misconstrue of their too priuate familiaritie, iudging that it was not for honest affection, but for disordinate fancie: so as he began to watch them more narrowly, to see if he could get any true or certaine proofe to confirme his doubtfull suspition. While thus he noted her lookes and gestures, and suspected their thoughts & meanings, they two silly soules, who doubted nothing of this his treacherous intent, frequented daily each others company: which draue him into such a frantick passion, that he began to beare a secret hate to Egistus, and a lowring countenance to Bellaria: who marualling at such vnaccustomed frownes, began to cast beyond the moone, and to enter into a 1000. sundry thoughts, which way she should offend her husband: but finding in her selfe a cleare conscience, ceased to muse, till such time as shee might finde fit opportunitie to demaund the cause of his dumpes. In the meane time, Pandostoes minde was so far charged with iealousie that he no longer doubted, but was assured (as he thought) that his friend Egistus had entred a wrong point in his tables, and so had plaid him false play. Whereupon desirous to reuenge so great an iniurie, he thought best to dissemble the grudge with a faire and friendly countenance: & so vnder the shape of a friend, to shew him the tricke of a foe. Deuising with himselfe a long time, how he might best put away Egistus, without suspition of treacherous murther, concluded at last to poyson him. Which opinion pleasing his humor, he became resolute in his determination: and the better to bring the matter to passe, he called to him his cup-bearer, with whom in secret he brake the matter: promising him for the performance thereof, to giue him 1000. crownes of yearely reuenues. His cup-bearer, either being of a good conscience, or willing for fashions sake to deny such a bloody request, beganne with great reasons to perswade Pandosto

from

from his determinate mischiefe: shewing him what an odious murther was to the gods, how much vnnaturall actions did more displease the heauens, then men; & that cauſeleſſe cruelty did ſildome or neuer eſcape without reuenge: he layd before his face, that Egiſtus was his friend, a King, & one that was come into his kingdome, to confirme a league of perpetuall amitie betwixt them: that he had, and did ſhew him a moſt friendly countenance, how Egiſtus was not onely honoured of his owne people by obedience, but alſo loued of the Bohemians for his curteſie. And that if he now ſhould, without any iuſt or manifeſt cauſe, poyſon him, it would not onely be a great diſhonour to his Maieſtie, and a meanes to ſow perpetuall enmity betwéen the Sycilians and the Bohemians, but alſo his owne ſubiects would repine at ſuch treacherous cruelty. Theſe and ſuch like perſwaſions of Franion (for ſo was his Cup-bearer called) could no whit preuaile to diſſwade him from his diuelliſh enterpriſe: but remaining reſolute in his determination (his fury ſo fired with rage, as it could not be appeaſed with reaſon) he began with bitter taunts to take vp his man, and to lay before him two baites, preferment and death: ſaying that if he would poyſon Egiſtus, he would aduance him to high dignities: if he refuſed to doe it of an obſtinate minde, no torture ſhould be too great to requite his diſobedience. Franion, ſéeing that to perſwade Pandoſto any more, was but to ſtriue againſt the ſtreame, conſented, as ſoone as opportunity would giue him leaue, to diſpatch Egiſtus: wherewith Pandoſto remained ſomewhat ſatiſfied, hoping now he ſhould be fully reuenged of ſuch miſtruſted iniuries, intending alſo as ſoone as Egiſtus was dead, to giue his wife a top of the ſame ſauce, & ſo be rid of thoſe which were the cauſe of his reſtles ſorrow. While thus he liued in this hope, Franion being ſecret in his chamber, began to meditate with himſelfe in theſe termes.

AH Franion, treaſon is loued of many, but the Traitor hated of all: vntruſt offences may for a time eſcape without danger, but neuer without reuenge. Thou art ſeruant to a King, and muſt obey at command: yet Franion, againſt law and conſcience, it is not good to reſiſt a tyrant with armes, nor to pleaſe an vniuſt King with obedience. What ſhalt thou doe? Folly refuſed

gold, and frenzie preferment: wisdome seeketh after dignity, and counsell keepeth for gaine. Egistus is a stranger to thee, and Pandosto thy soueraigne: thou hast little cause to respect the one, and oughtest to haue great care to obey the other. Thinke this Franion, that a pound of gold is worth a tunne of Lead, great gifts are little Gods: and preferment to a meane man is a whetstone to courage; there is nothing sweeter then promotion, nor lighter then report: care not then though most count thee a traitor, so all call thee rich. Dignity (Franion) aduanceth thy posteritie, and euill report can but hurt thy selfe. Know this, where Eagles builde, Faulcons may prey: where Lyons haunt, Fores may steale. Kings are knowne to commaund, seruants are blamelesse to consent: feare not thou then to lift at Egistus, Pandosto shall beare the burthen. Yea but Franion, conscience is a worme that euer biteth, but neuer ceaseth: that which is rubbed with the stone Galactites will neuer bee hot. Flesh dipped in the Sea Ægeum, will neuer bee sweete: the hearbe Trigion, being once bit with an Aspis, neuer groweth, and conscience once stayned with innocent blood, is alwaies tyed to a guiltie remorse. Prefer thy content before riches, and a cleare minde before dignity: so being poore, thou shalt haue rich peace, or else rich, thou shalt enioy disquiet.

Franion hauing muttered out these or such like words, seeing either he must die with a cleare minde, or liue with a spotted conscience: hee was so cumbred with diuers cogitations that hee could take no rest: vntill at last he determined to breake the matter to Egistus: but fearing that the King should eyther suspect or heare of such matters, he concealed the deuice till opportunitie would permit him to reueale it. Lingring thus in doubtfull feare, in an euening he went to Egistus lodging, and desirous to breake with him of certaine affaires that touched the King, after all were commaunded out of the Chamber, Franion made manifest the whole conspiracie which Pandosto had deuised against him, desiring Egistus not to account him a Traytor for bewraying his Maisters counsaile, but to thinke that he did it for conscience: hoping that although his Maister inflamed with rage, or incensed by some sinister reportes, or slanderous

speeches,

speeches, had imagined such cauſeleſſe miſchiefe: yet when time ſhould pacifie his anger, and try thoſe tale-bearers but flattering Parаſites, then he would count him as a faithfull ſeruant that with ſuch care had kept his Maiſters credite. Egiſtus had not fully heard Franion tell forth his tale, but a quaking feare poſſeſſed all his limmes, thinking that there was ſome treaſon wrought, and that Franion did but ſhaddow his craft with theſe falſe colours: wherefore he began to ware in choller, and ſaide that he doubted not Pandoſto, ſith he was his friend, and there had neuer as yet beene any breach of amity: he had not ſought to inuade his lands, to conſpire with his enemies, to diſſuade his Subiects from their allegeance: but in word and thought he reſted his at all times: he knew not therefore any cauſe, that ſhould moue Pandoſto to ſeeke his death, but ſuſpected it to be a compacted knauery of the Bohemians, to bring the King and him to oddes. Franion ſtaying him in the middſt of his talke, told him, that to dally with Princes was with the ſwannes to ſing againſt their death, and that if the Bohemians had intended any ſuch miſchiefe, it might haue beene better brought to paſſe then by reuealing the conſpiracie: therefore his Maieſtie did ill to miſconſtrue of his good meaning, ſith his intent was to hinder treaſon, not to become a traytor: and to confirme his promiſes, if it pleaſed his Maieſtie to fly into Sicilia for the ſafegarde of his life, hee would goe with him: and if then he found not ſuch a practiſe to be pretended, let his imagined treacherie be repayed with moſt monſtrous torments. Egiſtus hearing the ſolemne proteſtation of Franion, beganne to conſider, that in Loue and Kingdomes, neither faith, nor laire is to bee reſpected: doubting that Pandoſto thought by his death to deſtroy his men, and with ſpeedy warre to inuade Sycilia: Theſe and ſuch doubtes throughly weyghed, he gaue great thankes to Franion, promiſing if hee might with life returne to Syracuſa, that hee would create him a Duke in Sycilia: crauing his Counſell how hee might eſcape out of the Countrie. Franion, who hauing ſome ſmall ſkill in Nauigation, was well acquainted with the Ports and hauens, and knew every daunger in the Sea, ioyning in counſell with the Maiſter of Egiſtus Naue, rigged all their

ſhips, and ſetting them a flote, let them lie at anchor, to be in the more readines, when time and winde ſhould ſerue. Fortune although blind, yet by chaunce fauouring this iuſt cauſe, ſent them within fiue dayes a good gale of winde: which Franion ſeing fit for their purpoſe, to put Pandoſto out of ſuſpition, the night before they ſhould ſaple, he went to him, and promiſed, that the next day he would put the deuice in practiſe, for he had got ſuch a forcible poyſon, as the very ſmell therof would procure ſuddain death. Pandoſto was ioyfull to heare this good newes, & thought euery houre a day, till he might be glutted with bloudy reuenge: but his ſuit had but ill ſucceſſe. For Egiſtus fearing that delay might hazard: dagger, and willing that the graſſe ſhould not be cut from vnder his feete, taking bagge and baggage by the helpe of Franion, conueied himſelfe and his men out at a poſterne gate of the Cittie, ſo ſecretly, and ſpeedily, that without any ſuſpition they got to the Sea ſhoare: where, with many a bitter curſe taking their leaue of Bohemia, they went aboord weighing their Anchors, and hoiſting ſaple, they paſſed as faſt as winde & ſea would permit towards Sycilia: Egiſtus being a ioyfull man that he had ſafely paſt ſuch treacherous perils. But as they were quietly floating on the ſea, ſo Pandoſto and his Cittizens were in an vproare; for, ſeing that the Sycilians without taking their leaue, were fled away by night, the Bohemians feared ſome treaſon, and the King thought that without queſtion his ſuſpition was true, ſeing the Cup-bearer had betrayed the ſum of his ſecret pretence. Whereupon he began to imagine that Franion and his wife Bellaria had conſpired with Egiſtus, and that the feruent affection thee bare him, was the onely meanes of his ſecret departure: in ſo much that incenſed with rage, he commaunded that his wife ſhould be carried ſtraight to priſon, vntill they heard further of his pleaſure. The Guarde vnwilling to lay their hands one ſuch a vertuous Princeſſe, and yet fearing the Kings fury, went very ſorowfull to fulfill their charge: coming to the Queenes lodging, they found her playing with her yong ſonne Garinter: vnto whom with teares doing the meſſage, Bellaria aſtoniſhed at ſuch a hard cenſure, and finding her cleare conſcience a ſure aduocate to pleade in her cauſe, went to the priſon moſt willingly: where with ſighes and teares, thee

paſt

paſt away the time, till ſhe might come to her triall.

But Pandoſto whoſe reaſon was ſuppreſſed with rage, and whoſe vnbridled lolite was incenſed with fury: ſeing Franion had bewrayed his ſecrets, and that Egiſtus might well be rayled on, but not reuenged: determined to wreake all his wrath on poore Bellaria. He therefore cauſed a generall proclamation to be made through all his Realme, that the Quæne & Egiſtus had by the helpe of Franion, not onely committed moſt inceſtuous adultery, but alſo had conſpired the Kings death: whereupon the Traitor Franion was fled away with Egiſtus, and Bellaria was moſt luckily impriſoned. This proclamation being once blazed through the country, although the vertuous diſpoſition of the Quæne did halfe diſcredit the contents, yet the ſuddaine & ſpeedy paſſage of Egiſtus, and the ſecret departure of Franion, induced them (the circumſtances throughly conſidered) to thinke that both the proclamation was true, and the King greatly injured: yet they pitied her caſe, as ſorrowful, that ſo good a Lady ſhould be croſſed with ſuch adnerſe Fortune. But the King, whoſe reſtleſſe rage would remit no pitty, thought that although he might ſufficiently requite his wiues falſhood with the bitter plague of pinching penury, yet his minde ſhould neuer be glutted with reuenge, till he might haue fit time and opportunity to repay the trechery of Egiſtus with a totall iniury. But a curſt Cow hath oftentimes ſhort hornes, and a willing minde hut a weake arme. For Pandoſto although he felt that reuenge was a ſpurre to warre, and that enuy alwaies proffereth ſteele, yet he ſaw, that Egiſtus was not onely of great puiſſance and prowelle to withſtand him, but had alſo many Kings of his alliance to ayde him, if næde ſhould ſeeme: for he married the Emperours daughter of Ruſſia. Theſe and the like conſiderations ſomething daunted Pandoſto his courage, ſo that hee was content rather to put vp a manifeſt iniurie with peace, then hunt after reuenge, dishonor, and loſſe: determining ſince Egiſtus had eſcaped ſcot-free, that Bellaria ſhould pay for all at an vnreſonable price.

Remayning thus reſolute in his determination, Bellaria continuing ſtill in priſon, and hearing the contents of the Proclamation, knowing that her minde was neuer touched with

ſuch affection, nor that Egiſtus had euer offered her ſuch diſcurteſie, would gladly haue come to her anſwere, that both ſhee might haue knowne her iuſt accuſers, and cleared her ſelfe of that guiltleſſe crime.

But Pandoſto was ſo inflamed with rage, and infected with Ielouſie, as he would not vouchſafe to heare her, nor admit any iuſt excuſe: ſo that ſhee was faine to make a vertue of her nede, and with patience to beare thoſe heauie iniuries. As thus ſhee lay croſſed with calamities (a great cauſe to increaſe her griefe) ſhe found her ſelfe quicke with childe: which as ſoone as ſhe felt ſtirre in her body, ſhe burſt forth into bitter teares, exclayming againſt fortune in theſe termes.

ALas Bellaria, how infortunate art thou, becauſe fortunate? Better thou hadſt beene borne a beggar, then a Prince, ſo ſhouldeſt thou haue bridled Fortune with want, where now ſhee ſporteth her ſelfe with thy plentie. Ah happy life, where poore thoughts, and meane deſires liue in ſecure content, not fearing Fortune becauſe to low. For Fortune, thou ſeeſt now Bellaria that care is a companion to honor, not to pouertie: that high Cedars are ſcrubbed with tempeſts, when low ſhrubs are not touched with the winde: pretious Diamonds are cut with the file, when deſpiſed pibbles lye ſafe in the ſand. Delphos is ſought to by Princes, not beggers: and Fortunes Altars ſmoke with kings preſents, not with poore mens gifts. Happie are ſuch Bellaria, that curſe Fortune for contempt, not feare: and may with they were, not ſorrow they haue beene. Thou art a Princeſſe Bellaria, and yet a priſoner: borne to the one by deſcent, aſſigned to the other by diſpite: accuſed without cauſe, and therefore ought eſt to lye without care: for patience is a ſhield againſt Fortune, and a guiltleſſe minde perſwadeth not to ſorrow. Ah but infamy galleth vnto death, and liueth after death: Report is plumed with times feathers, and Enuie oftentimes ſoundeth Fames Trumpet: the ſuſpected adultery ſhall fly in the ayre, and thy knowne vertues ſhall lye hid in the Earth; one Moale blameth a whole Face: and what is once ſpotted with Infamy, can hardly be worne out with time. Die then Bellaria, Bellaria die: for if the Gods ſhould ſay thou art guiltleſſe,

yet

yet enuie would heare the Gods, but neuer beléeue the Gods. Ah hapleſſe wretch, ceaſe theſe tearmes: deſperate thoughts are fit for them that feare ſhame, not for ſuch as hope for credite. Pandoſto hath darkened thy fame, but ſhall neuer diſcredite thy vertues. Suſpition may enter a falſe action, but proofe ſhall neuer put in his plea: care not then for enuie, ſith report hath a bliſter on her tongue: and let ſorrow baite them which offend, not touch thee that art faultleſſe. But alas poore ſoule, how canſt thou but ſorrow? Thou art with childe, and by him, that in ſteed of kinde pittie, pincheth thee in cold priſon. And with that, ſuch gaſping ſighes ſo ſtopping her breath, that ſhee could not vtter any more words, but wringing her hands, and guſhing forth ſtreames of teares, ſhee paſſed away the time with bitter complaints.

THe Jaylor pitying thoſe her heauie paſſions, thinking that if the King knew ſhe were with childe, he would ſomewhat appeaſe his fury and releaſe her from priſon, went in al haſt, and certified Pandoſto, what the effect of Bellarias complaint was: who no ſooner heard the Jaylor ſay ſhe was with childe, but as one poſſeſſed with a phranzie, he roſe vp in a rage, ſwearing that ſhee, and the baſterd brat ſhe was withall ſhould die, if the Gods themſelues ſaid no: thinking that ſurely by computation of time, that Egiſtus and not he was father to the childe. This ſuſpitious thought galled a freſh this halfe healed ſore, in ſo much as he could take no reſt, vntill he might mittigate his choller with a iuſt reuenge, which happened preſently after. For Bellaria was brought to bed of a faire & beautifull daughter: which no ſooner Pandoſto hearde, but he determined that both Bellaria and the young infant ſhould be burnt with fire. His Nobles, hearing of the kings cruell ſentence, ſought by perſwaſions to diuert him from his bloodie determination: laying before his face the innocencie of the childe, and vertuous diſpoſition of his wife, how ſhe had continually loued and honoured him ſo tenderly, that without due proofe he could not, nor ought not to appeach her of that crime. And if ſhe had faulted, yet it were more honourable to pardon with mercy, then to puniſh with extremity and more kingly, to be commended of pitty, then accuſed of rigour: And as

for the childe, if he ſhould punish it for the mothers offence, it were to ſtriue againſt nature and iuſtice: and that vnnaturall actions doe more offend the Gods, then men: how cauſeleſſe cruelty, for innocent blood neuer ſcapes without reuenge. Theſe and ſuch like reaſons could not appeaſe his rage, but he reſted reſolute in this, that Bellaria being an Adultreſſe, the childe was a Baſtard, and he would not ſuffer that ſuch an infamous brat ſhould call him Father. Yet at laſt (ſeing his Noble men were importunate vpon him) he was content to ſpare the childes life, and yet to put it to a worſe death. For he found out this deuiſe, that ſeing (as he thought) it came by fortune, ſo he would commit it to the charge of Fortune, and therefore he cauſed a little Cock-boat to be prouided, wherein he meant to put the babe, and then ſend it to the mercies of the Seas, and the deſtenies. From this his Peeres in no wiſe could perſwade him, but that he ſent preſently two of his guard to fetch the childe: who being come to the priſon, and with weeping teares recounting their Maiſters meſſage: Bellaria no ſoner heard the rigorious reſolution of her mercileſſe huſband, but ſhe fell downe in a ſwound, ſo that all thought ſhe had bin dead: yet at laſt being come to her ſelfe, ſhe cryed and ſcreached out in this wiſe.

ALas ſweete infortunate babe, ſcarce borne, before enuied by fortune, would the day of thy birth had bene the terme of thy life: then ſhouldſt thou haue made an ende to care, and preuented thy Fathers rigour. Thy faults cannot yet deſerue ſuch hatefull reuenge, thy dayes are to ſhort for ſo ſharpe a doome, but thy vntimely death muſt pay thy Mothers Debts, and her guiltleſſe crime muſt bee thy gaſtly curſe. And ſhalt thou ſweete Babe be committed to Fortune, when thou art already ſpited by Fortune? Shall the Seas be thy harbour, and the hard boate thy cradle? Shall thy tender Mouth, in ſtede of ſweete kiſſes, be nipped with bitter ſtormes? Shalt thou haue the whiſtling windes for thy Lullabie, and the ſalt Sea ſome in ſtede of ſweete Milke? Alas, what deſtinies would aſſigne ſuch hard hape? What Father would be ſo cruell? Or what Gods will not reuenge ſuch rigor? Let me kiſſe thy lippes (ſweete Infant) and wet thy tender chekes with my teares, and put this chayne about

about thy little necke: that if fortune saue thée, it may helpe to succour thée. This, since thou must goe to surge in the gastfull Seas, with a sorowfull kisse I bid thée farewell, and I pray the Gods thou maist fare well. Such, and so great was her griefe, that her vitall spirits being suppressed with sorow, she fell againe downe into a trance, hauing her sences so sotted with care, that after she was reuiued, yet shee lost her memorie, and lay for a great time without mouing, as one in a trance. The guard left her in this perplexitie, and carried the child to the King: who quite deuoid of pittie, commaunded that without delay it should be put into the boate, hauing neither saile nor rudder to guide it, and so to be caried into the middest of the Sea, and there left to the winde and waues, as the destinies please to appoint. The very ship-men, seeing the sweete countenance of the yong babe, began to accuse the King of rigour, and to pittie the childes hard fortune: but feare constrained them to that, which their nature did abhorre: so that they placed it in one of the ends of the Boate, and with a few greene bowes made a homely cabin to shrowde it, as they could from winde and weather. Hauing thus trimmed a Boate, they tied it to a ship, and so haled it into the maine Sea, and then cut in sunder the corde: which they had no sooner done, but there arose a mightie tempest which tossed the little Boate so vehemently in the waues, that the Ship-men thought it could not continue long without sinking: yea, the storme grew so great, that with much labour and perill they got to the shore. But, leauing the child to her fortunes, againe to Pandosto: who not yet glutted with sufficient reuenge, deuised which way he should best increase his wiues calamitie. But first assembling his Nobles and Counsellers, hee called her (for the more reproach) into open Court: where it was obiected against her, that shee had committed adultery with Egistus, and cõspired with Franion to poyson Pandosto her husband. But their pretence being partly spied, she counselled them to flie away by night, for their better safetie. Bellaria (who standing like a prisoner at the barre, and feeling in her selfe a cleere conscience to withstand her false accusers) seeing that no lesse then death could pacifie her husbands wrath, waxed bold, and desired that she might haue Law

and Iuſtice (for mercy ſhee neuer craued nor hoped) and that thoſe periured wretches, which had falſly accuſed her to the King, might be brought before her face, to giue in euidence. Pandoſto (whoſe rage and Ielouſie was ſuch, as no reaſon, nor equitie could appeaſe) told her, that for her accuſers, they were of ſuch credite, as their words were ſufficient witneſſe, and that the ſodaine and ſecrete flight of Egiſtus and Franion, confirmed that which they had confeſſed: and as for her, it was her part to denie ſuch a monſtrous crime, and to be impudent in forſwearing the fact, ſince ſhee had paſſed all ſhame in committing the fault: but her ſcale countenance ſhould ſtand for no coyne: for, as the baſtard which ſhe bare was ſerued, ſo ſhe ſhould with ſome cruell death be requited. Bellaria no whit diſmaied with this rough replie, told her Huſband Pandoſto that he ſpake vpon choler, and not conſcience: for her vertuous life had euer bæne ſuch as no ſpot of ſuſpition could euer ſtaine. And if ſhe had borne a friendly countenance to Egiſtus, it was in reſpect he was his friend, and not for any luſting affection: therefore if ſhee were condemned without any further proofe, it was rigour, and not Law. The Noble men which ſate in iudgement, ſaid that Bellaria ſpake reaſon, and intreated the King that the accuſers might be openly examined, & ſworne: if then the euidence were ſuch, as the Iury might finde her guiltie (for ſeing ſhee was a Prince ſhee ought to be tried by her Peeres) then let her haue ſuch puniſhment as the extremitie of the Law will aſſigne to ſuch malefactors. The King preſently made anſwere, that in this caſe he might, and would diſpence with the Law: and that the Iurie being once panneled, they ſhould take his word for ſufficient euidence: otherwiſe he would make the proudeſt of them repent it. The Noble men ſeing the King in choler, were all whiſt: but Bellaria whoſe life then hung in the ballance, fearing more perpetuall infamie, then momentanie death, told the King, if his fury might ſtand for a Law, that it were vaine to haue the Iury yeld their verdict, and therefore ſhe fell downe vpon her knees, and deſired the King that for the loue he bare to his young Sonne Garinter, whom ſhe brought into the world, that he would grant her a requeſt, the which was this, that it would pleaſe his Maieſtie to ſend for of

his Noble men whom he beſt truſted, to the Ile of Delphos, there to enquire of the Oracle of Apollo, whether ſhe had committed adultery with Egiſtus, or conſpired to poyſon him, with Franion; and if the God Apollo, who by his diuine eſſence knew all ſecrets, gaue anſwere that ſhe was guiltie, ſhe was content to ſuffer any torment, were it neuer ſo terrible. The requeſt was ſo reaſonable, that Pandoſto could not for ſhame denie it, vnleſſe he would be counted of all his ſubiects more wilfull then wiſe. He therefore agreed that with as much ſpeed as might be there ſhould be certaine Embaſſadours diſpatched to the Ile of Delphos: and in the meane ſeaſon he commanded that his wife ſhould be kept in cloſe priſon. Bellaria hauing obtained this grant, was now more carefull for her little babe that floated on the Seas, then ſorrowfull for her owne miſhap. For of that ſhe doubted: of her ſelfe ſhe was aſſured; knowing if Apollo ſhould giue Oracle according to the thoughts of the heart, yet the ſentence ſhould go on her ſide; ſuch was the clearenelſe of her minde in this caſe. But Pandoſto (whoſe ſuſpicious head ſtill remained in one ſong) choſe out ſire of his Nobilitie, whom hee knew were ſcarce indifferent men in the Queenes behalfe, and prouiding all things fit for their iourney, ſent them to Delphos. They willing to fulfill the Kings command, and deſirous to ſee the ſituation and cuſtome of the Iland, diſpatched their affaires with as much ſpeede as might be, and embarked themſelues to the voyage: which (the wind and weather ſerning fit for their purpoſe) was ſone ended. For within three weekes they arriued at Delphos: where they were no ſoner ſet on Land, but with great deuotion they went to the Temple of Apollo, and there offering ſacrifice to the God, and giftes to the Prieſt, as the cuſtome was, they humbly craued an anſwere of their demaund. They had not long kneled at the Altar, but Apollo with a loud voyce ſaid: Bohemians, what ye finde behind the Altar, take and depart. They forthwith obeying the Oracle, found a ſcroule of parchment wherein was written theſe words in letters of gold.

The Oracle.

Suſpition is no proofe: Iealouſie is an vnequall Iudge:
Bellaria is chaſt: *Egiſtus* blameleſſe: *Franion* a true

ſubiect: *Pandoſto* treacherous: his babe an innocent, and the King ſhall die without an heire: if that which is loſt be not found.

As ſoone as they had taken out this ſcroule, the Prieſt of the God commaunded them, that they ſhould not preſume to reade it, before they came to the preſence of Pandoſto, vnleſſe they would incurre the diſpleaſure of Apollo. The Bohemian Lords carefully obeying his commaund, taking their leaue of the Prieſt, with great reuerence departed out of the Temple, and went to their Ships: and as ſoone as winde would permit them, ſayled towards Bohemia, where in ſhort time they ſafely arriued, and with great triumph iſſuing out of their Shippes went to the Kings Pallace, whom they found in his chamber accompanied with other Noble men. Pandoſto no ſooner ſaw them, but with a merrie countenance he welcomed them home, aſking what newes? They told his Maieſtie, that they had receiued anſwere of the God written in a ſcroule: but with this charge, that they ſhould not reade the contents before they came in the preſence of the King: and with that they deliuered him the parchment. But his Noble men entreated him, that ſith therein were contained eyther the ſafetie of his wiues life and honeſtie, or her death and perpetuall infamy, that he would haue his Nobles and Commons aſſembled in the iudgement Hall: where the Queene brought in as a priſoner, ſhould heare the contents. If ſhe were found guilty by the Oracle of the God, the all ſhould haue cauſe to thinke his rigour proceeded of due deſert: if her Grace were found faultleſſe, then ſhe ſhould be cleered before all, ſith ſhe had bene accuſed openly. This pleaſed the King ſo, that he appointed the day, and aſſembled all the Lords and Commons, and cauſed the Queene to be brought in before the iudgement ſeate, commanding that the inditement ſhould be read: wherein ſhe was accuſed of adultery with Egiſtus, and of conſpiracie with Franion. Bellaria hearing the contents, was no whit aſtonied, but made this chearefull anſwere.

If the diuine powers be priuie to humane actions (as no doubt they are) I hope my patience ſhall make fortune bluſh, and

and my vnspotted life shall staine spitefull discredite. For although lying report hath sought to appeach mine honour, and suspition hath intended to soyle credit with infamie: yet where vertue kepeth the fort, report and suspition may assaile, but neuer sacke. How I haue led my life before Egistus comming, I appeale (Pandosto) to the Gods, and to thy conscience. What hath passed betweene him and me, the Gods onely know, and I hope will presently reueale. That I loued Egistus, I cannot denie: that I honoured him, I shame not to confesse. To the one I was forced by his vertues: to the other for his dignities. But as touching lasciuious lust, I say Egistus is honest, and hope my selfe to be found without spot: for Franion, I can neither accuse him, nor excuse him: I was not priuie to his departure: and that this is true, which I haue here rehearsed, I referre my selfe vnto the diuine Oracle.

BEllaria had no sooner said, but the King commaunded that one of the Dukes should reade the contents of the scroule, which after the Commons had heard, they gaue a great shoute, reioycing and clapping their hands, that the Queene was cleere of that false accusation: but the King, whose conscience was a witnesse against him of his witlesse fury, and false suspected Iealousie, was so ashamed of his rash folly, that he intreated his Nobles to perswade Bellaria to forgiue, and to forget these iniuries, promising not onely to shew himselfe a loyall and louing husband, but also to reconcile himselfe to Egistus and Franion: reuealing then before them all the cause of their secrete flight, and how trecherously he thought to haue practised his death, if the good minde of his cupbearer had not preuented his purpose. As thus he was relating the whole matter, there was word brought him, that his yong Sonne Garinter was sodainly dead: which newes so soone as Bellaria heard, surcharged before with extreame ioy, and now suppressed with beaute sorrow, her vitall spirits were stopped, that shee fell downe presently dead, and could neuer be reuiued. This sodaine sight so appalled the Kings sences, that he sunke from his seate in a swoune, so as he was faine to be carried by his Nobles to his Pallace, where he lay by the space of three dayes without speech. His

Commons were as men in despaire, so diuerslie distressed, there was nothing but mourning & lamentation to be heard throughout all Bohemia: their young Prince dead, their vertuous Queene bereaued of her life, and their King and Soueraigne in great hazard: this tragicall discourse of Fortune so daunted them, as they went like shadowes not men: yet somewhat to comfort their heauie hearts, they heard that Pandosto was come to himselfe, and had recouered his speech: who as in fury brayed these bitter speaches.

O Miserable Pandosto, what surer witnesse then conscience? What thoughts more sower then suspition? What plague more bad then Iealousie? Vnnaturall actions offended the Gods more then men: and causeless crueltie neuer scapes without reuenge. I haue committed such a bloudie fact, as repent I may: but recall I cannot. Ah Iealousie, a hell to the minde, and a horror to the conscience, suppressing reason, and inciting rage: a worse passion then phrensie, a greater plague then madnesse. Are the Gods iust? Then let them reuenge such brutish crueltie: my innocent Babe I haue drowned in the Seas: my louing wife I haue slaine with slaunderous suspition: my trustie friend, I haue sought to betray, and yet the Gods are slacke to plague such offences. Ah vniust Apollo, Pandosto is the man that hath committed the fault; why should Garinter, sely child, abide the paine? Well sith the Gods meane to prolong my daies to increase my dolour, I will offer my guiltie blood a sacrifice to those guiltlesse soules, whose liues are lost by rigorous folly. And with that he reached at a rapier to haue murthered himselfe: but his Peeres being present, staied him from such a bloody act: perswading him to think, that the Common wealth consisted on his safetie, and that those sheepe could not but perish, that wanted a shepheard: wishing, that if he would not liue for himselfe, yet he should haue care of his subiects, and to put such fancies out of his minde: sith in sores past helpe, salues do not heale, but hurt: and in things past cure, care is a corasiue. With these and such like perswasions the king was ouercome, and began somewhat to quiet his mind: so that so soone as he could goe abroade: hee caused his wife to be embalmed, and wrapt

wrapt in leads, with her young sonne Garinter: erecting a rich and famous Sepulchre, wherein he entombed them both, making such solemne obsequies at her Funerall, as all Bohemia might perceiue he did greatly repent him of his forepassed folly: causing this Epitaph to be ingrauen on her Tombe, in letters of gold.

The Epitaph.

Here lies entombde Bellaria *faire,*
Fasly accused to be vnchast:
Cleered by Apollos *sacred doome,*
Yet slaine by leaiousie at last.

VVhat ere thou bee that passest by,
Curse him that cause this Queene to die.

THis Epitaph being ingrauen, Pandosto would once a day repaire to the Tombe, and there with watry plants bewaile his misfortune: coueting no other companion but sorrow, nor no other harmonie, but repentance. But leauing him to his dolorous passions, at last let vs come to shew the tragicall discourse of the young Infant.

VVHo being tossed with winde, and waues, floated two whole daies without succour, readie at euery puffe to be drowned in the Sea: till at last the tempest ceased, & the little Boate was driuen with the tide into the coast of Sycilia: where sticking vpon the Sands, it rested. Fortune minding to be wanton (willing to shew that as she hath wrinckles on her browes: so she hath dimples in her cheeks) thought after so many sowre lookes, to lend a fained smile: and after a puffing storme, to bring a pretty calme: she beganne thus to dally. It fortuned a poore mercenary Shepheard, that dwelled in Sycilia, who got his liuing by other mens flockes, missed one of his sheepe, and thinking it had strayed into the couert that was hard by, sought very diligently to find that which he could not see, fearing either that the Wolues or Eagles had vndone him (for he

was

was ſo poore, as a ſheepe was halfe his ſubſtance) wandered downe towards the ſea cliffes, to ſee if perchance the ſheepe was browſing on the Sea Iuie, whereon they doe greatly feede. But not finding her there, as he was readie to returne to his flocke, he heard a childe crie: but knowing there was no houſe neere, thought he had miſtaken the ſound, and that it was the bleating of his ſheepe. Wherefore loking more narrowly, as he caſt his eye to the Sea, he ſpied a little Boate: from whence (as he attentiuely liſtened) he might heare a crie to come. Standing a good while in a maze, at laſt he went to the ſhoare, & wading to the Boate, as he loked in, he ſawe a little babe lying all alone, ready to die for hunger and cold, wrapped in a Mantle of Scarlet, richly embrothered with gold, and hauing a Chaine about the necke. The Shepheard, who before had neuer ſeene ſo faire a babe, nor ſo rich Iewels, thought aſſuredly, that it was ſome little God, and beganne with great deuotion to knocke on his breaſt. The babe, who writhed with the head to ſeeke for the pap, began againe to crie a freſh: whereby the poore man knew that it was a child, which by ſome ſiniſter meanes was driuen thither by diſtreſſe of weather: maruailing how ſuch a ſilly Infant, which by the Mantle, and the Chaine, could not but be borne of Noble parentage, ſhould be ſo hardly croſſed with deadly miſhap. The poore ſhepheard, perplexed thus with diuers thoughts, tooke pittie of the Child, and determined with himſelfe to carry it to the King, that there it might be brought vp, according to the worthineſſe of birth: for his abilitie could not affoorde to foſter it, though his mind was willing to further it. Taking therefore the Childe in his armes, as he folded the Mantle together, the better to defend it from the cold, there fell downe at his foote a verie faire and rich purſe, wherein he found a great ſumme of gold: which ſight ſo reuiued the ſhepheards ſpirits, as he was greatly rauiſhed with ioy, and daunted with feare: ioyfull, to ſee ſuch a ſumme in his power: fearefull, if it ſhould be knowne, that it might breede his further danger. Neceſſitie wilde him at the leaſt, to retaine the gold, though he would not keepe the Childe: the ſimplicitie of his conſcience feared him from ſuch deceitfull briberie. Thus was the poore man perplexed with a doubtfull Dilemma, vntill at laſt the couetouſnes of the coyne ouercame

him

him: for what will not the greedy deſire of Golde cauſe a man to doe? So that hee was reſolued in himſelfe to foſter the Childe, and with the ſumme to relieue his want. Reſting thus reſolute in this poynt, he left ſeeking his Sheepe, and as couertly and ſecretly as hee could, went a by-way to his houſe, leaſt any of his Neighbours ſhould perceiue his carriage.

Aſſone as he was got home, entring in at the doore, the Childe began to crie. Which his wife hearing, and ſeeing her Huſband with a young Babe in his armes, began to be ſomewhat iealous: yet marueiling that her huſband ſhould be ſo wanton abroad, ſith he was in quiet at home. But as women are naturally giuen to beleeue the worſt, ſo his wife thinking it was ſome baſtard, began to crow againſt her good man: and taking vp a cudgell (for the moſt maiſter went breechleſſe) ſware ſolemnly that ſhe would make clubs trumpe, if he brought any baſtard brat within her doores. The goodman ſeeing his wife in her maieſtie, with her Mace in her hand, thought it was time to bow for feare of blowes, and deſired her to be quiet, for there was no ſuch matter: but if ſhe could hold her peace, they were made for euer. And with that he told her the whole matter: how he had found the childe in a little Boate without any ſuccour, wrapped in that coſtly Mantle, and hauing that rich chaine about the necke: but at laſt when he ſhewed her the purſe full of gold, ſhe began to ſimper ſomething ſweetly. And taking her huſband about the necke, kiſſed him after her homely faſhion: ſaying, that ſhe hoped God had ſeene their want, and now meant to relieue their pouertie, and ſeeing they could get no children, had ſent them this little Babe to be their heyre. Make heede in any caſe (ſaith the ſhepheard) that you be ſecret, and blabbe it not out when you meete with your Goſſips. For if you doe, we are all like not onely to loſe the gold and Iewels, but our other goods and liues. Tuſh (quoth his wife) profite is a good Hatch before the doore: Feare not, I haue other things to talke of, then this: but I pray you let vs lay vp the money ſurely, and the Iewels, leaſt by any miſhap it be eſpyed. After that they had ſet all things in order, the Shepheard went to his Sheepe with a merry note, and the good Wife learned to ſing Lulleby at home with her young Babe, wrapping it in a homely blanket, in ſtead of a rich mantle,

nouriſhing it to ſo cleanly and carefully, as it began to be a iolly Girle: inſomuch that they began both of them to be very fond of it, and as it wared in age, ſo it increaſed in beautie. The ſhepheard euery night at his comming home, would ſing and dance it on his knee, and prattle, that in a ſhort time it began to ſpeake and call him Dad, and her Mam. At laſt, when it grew to ripe yeares, that it was about ſeuen yeares olde, the Shepheard left keeping of other mens ſheepe, and with the money he found in the purſe, he bought him the leaſe of a prettie Farme, and got a ſmall flocke of ſheepe: which when Fawnia (for ſo they named the child) came to the age of ten yeares, he ſet her to keepe ſheepe: and ſhe with ſuch diligence performed her charge, as the ſheepe proſpered marueilouſly vnder her hand. Fawnia thought Porrus had bene her Father, and Mopſa her Mother (for ſo was the ſhepheard and his wife called) and honoured and obeyed them with ſuch reuerence, that all the neighbours praiſed the dutifull obedience of the Childe. Porrus grew in ſhort time to be a man of ſome wealth and credite. For Fortune ſo fauoured him in hauing no charge but Fawnia, that he began to purchaſe Land, intending after his death to giue it to his Daughter: ſo that diuers rich Farmers Sonnes came as woers to his houſe. For Fawnia was ſomething cleanly attyred, being of ſuch ſingular beautie and excellent wit, that who ſo ſaw her, would haue thought ſhe had béne ſome heauenly Nimph, and not a mortall creature. Inſomuch that when ſhe came to the age of ſirténe yeares, ſhee ſo increaſed with exquiſite perfection both of body and minde, as her naturall diſpoſition did bewray that ſhe was borne of ſome high parentage. But the people thinking ſhe was the daughter to the Shepheard Porrus, reſted onely amazed at her beautie and wit. Yea ſhe won ſuch fauour and commendations in euery mans eye, and her beautie was not onely praiſed in the Countrey, but alſo ſpoken of in the Court. Yet ſuch was her ſubmiſſe modeſtie, that although her praiſe daily increaſed, her minde was no whit puffed vp with pride, but humbled her ſelfe as became a country maide, and the daughter of a poore ſhepheard. Euery day ſhe went forth with her ſheepe to the field, keeping them with ſuch care and diligence, as all men thought ſhe was very painfull,

ſelf, defending her face from the heate of the Sunne, with no other Vayle, but with a Garland made of Boughs and Flowers; Which attyre became her ſo gallantly, as ſhee ſeemed to be the Goddeſſe Flora her ſelfe, for beautie. Fortune, who all this while had ſhewed a friendly face, began now to turne her backe, and to ſhew a lowring countenance: intending as ſhe had giuen Fawnia a ſlender checke, ſo ſhee would giue her a harder mate.

Which to bring to paſſe, ſhe laide her traine on this wiſe: Egiſtus had but one onely Sonne called Doraſtus, about the age of twenty yeares: a Prince ſo decked and adorned with the gifts of Nature, ſo fraught with beautie and vertuous qualities, as not onely his Father ioyed to haue ſo goodly a Sonne, but his Commons reioyced that God had ſent them ſuch a noble Prince to ſucceede in the Kingdome.

Egiſtus, placing all his ioy in the perfection of his Sonne (ſeeing that hee was now Marriageable) ſent Embaſſadours to the King of Denmarke, to intreat a Marriage betweene him, and his Daughter. Who willingly conſenting, made anſwere; that the next Spring, if it pleaſed Egiſtus, with his Sonne to come into Denmarke, he doubted not, but they ſhould agree vpon reaſonable conditions. Egiſtus reſting ſatisfyed with this friendly Anſwere, thought conuenient in the meane time to breake it vnto his Sonne. Finding therefore on a day fit opportunitie, he ſpake to him in theſe Fatherly termes.

DOraſtus, thy Youth warneth me to preuent the worſt, and mine Age to prouide the beſt. Opportunities neglected are ſignes of folly: Actions meaſured by time, are ſeldome bitten with repentance; Thou art young, and I olde: Age hath taught me that, which thy youth cannot conceiue.

I therefore will counſell thee as a Father, hoping thou wilt obey as a Childe. Thou ſeeſt my white hayres are bloſſomes for the Graue: and thy freſh colours, fruite for Time and Fortune; So that it behoueth mee to thinke how to dye, and for thee, to care how to liue. My Crowne I muſt leaue by death, and thou enioy my Kingdome by ſucceſſion. Wherein I hope thy vertue and proweſſe ſhall be ſuch, as though my Subiects want my Perſon, yet they ſhall ſee in thee my perfection. That

nothing eyther may fayle to ſatiſfie thy minde, or encreaſe thy dignities: the onely care I haue, is, to ſee thee well Married before I dye, and thou become olde.

Doraſtus (who from his Infancie, delighted rather to dye with Mars in the Fielde, then to dally with Venus in the Chamber,) fearing to diſpleaſe his Father, and yet not willing to be Wedde, made this reuerent Anſwere.

SIR, there is no greater bond then Dutie, nor no ſtricter Law then Nature: diſobedience in Youth, is often galled with deſpight in Age. The commaund of the Father ought to be a conſtrainte to the Childe: ſo Parents willes are Lawes, ſo they paſſe not all Lawes. May it pleaſe your Grace therefore, to appoint whom I ſhall loue: Rather then by denyall I ſhould be appeached of diſobedience, I reſt content to loue: though it be the onely thing I hate.

Egiſtus hearing his Sonne to flye farre from the marke, began to be ſomewhat Chollericke, and therefore made him this haſtie Anſwere.

WHat Doraſtus, canſt thou not loue? Commeth this Cynicall paſſion of prowd deſires, or peeuiſh Frowardnes? What, doeſt thou thinke thy ſelfe too good for all, or none good enough for thee? I tell thee Doraſtus, there is nothing ſweeter then Youth: nor ſwifter decreaſing, while it is increaſing. Time paſt with Folly may be repented, but not recalled. If thou marry in Age, thy Wiues freſh colours will breede in thee dead thoughts and ſuſpition; and thy white haires her loathſomnes and ſorrow. For Venus affections are not fed with Kingdomes, or Treaſures; but with Youthfull conceyts, and ſweete Amours. Vulcan was alotted to ſhake the Tree, but Mars allowed to gather the Fruit. Yeelde Doraſtus to thy Fathers perſwaſions, which may preuent thy perills. I haue choſen thee a Wife, faire by Nature, Royall by byrth, by vertues famous, learned by education, and rich by poſſeſſions: ſo that it is hard to iudge, whether her bounty or Fortune, her beauty or Vertue bee of greater force. I meane (Doraſtus) Euphania, daughter and heyre to the King of Denmarke.

Egiſtus

EGistus pausing here a while, looking when his Sonne should make him answere: and seeing that he stoode still, as one in a trance, he shooke him vp thus sharply.

WEll Dorastus take heede, the Tree Alpya wasteth not with Fire, but withereth with deawe: that which loue nourisheth not, perisheth with hate. If thou like Euphania thou breedest my content, and in louing her thou shalt haue my loue: otherwise: and with that he flung from his sonne in a rage, leauing him a sorrowfull man, in that he had by denyall displeased his Father; and halfe angrie with himselfe, that he could not yeelde to that passion, whereto both reason and his Father perswaded him. But see how Fortune is plumed with times Feathers, and how she can minister strange causes to breed strange effects.

It happened not long after this, that there was a meeting of all the Farmers daughters in Scycilia, whither Fawnia was also bidden as the Mistresse of the Feast: who hauing attyred her selfe in her best Garments, went amongst the rest of her companyons to the said merry meeting: there spending the day in such homely pastime as Shepheards vse. As the Euening grew on, and theyr sportes ceased, each taking theyr leaue of other, Fawnia desiring one of her companions to beare her company, went home by the Flocke, to see if they were well-folded. And as they returned, it fortuned that Dorastus (who all that day had bene Hawking, and killed store of game) incountred by the way these two Maydes: and casting his eye suddenly on Fawnia, he was halfe afraid, fearing that with Acteon he had seene Diana: For hee thought such exquisite perfection could not be found in any mortall creature. As thus he stoode in a maze, one of his Pages told him, that the Mayd with the Garland on her head, was Fawnia the fayre Shepheard, whose beauty was so much talked of in the Court. Dorastus, desirous to see if Nature had adorned her minde with any inward qualities, as shee had decked her body with outward shape; beganne to question with her, whose Daughter she was: of what Age, and how she had bene trayned vp? Who answered him with such modest reuerence and sharpnes of wit, that Dorastus thought her outward beauty was but a

counterfeite to darken her inward qualities: Wondering how so courtly behauiour could be found in so simple a Cottage; and cursing Fortune, that had shadowed Witte and Beautie with such hard Fortune: And thus he held her a long time with chatte.

Beauty seeing him at discouert: thought not to lose the vantage, but stroke him so deepely with an inuenomed shaft, as he wholely lost his Libertie, and became a Slaue to Loue, which before contemned Loue, glad now to gaze on a poore Shepheard, who before refused the offer of a rich Princesse. For the perfection of Fawnia had so fired his Fancie, as hee felt his minde greatly changed, and his Affections altered: cursing Loue that had wrought such a change; and blaming the basenesse of his minde that would make such a choyce. But thinking these were but passionate toyes, that might be thrust out at pleasure: to anoyd the Syren that Enchanted him, he put spurres to his Horse, and bad this faire Shepheard fare-well.

Fawnia, (who all this while had marked the Princely gesture of Doraſtus) seeing his face so well featured, and each Lim so perfectly framed, beganne greatly to praise his perfection, commending him so long, till she found her selfe faultie: and perceyued that if shee waded but a little further, she might slip ouer the shoes. Shee therefore seeking to quench that fire which neuer was put out, went home; and fayning her selfe not well at ease, got her to Bed: where casting a thousand thoughts in her head, shee could take no rest. For if shee awaked, she began to call to minde his beautie: and thinking to beguile such thoughts with sleepe, shee then dreamed of his perfection. Pestered with these vnacquainted Passions, she passed the night as she could, in short slumbers.

Doraſtus, (who all this while roade with a Flea in his eare) could not by any meanes forget the sweete Fauour of Fawnia, but rested so Bewitched with her Wit and Beautie, as he could take no rest. He felte fancie to giue the Assault, and his wounded minde readie to yeelde as vanquished; yet he began with diuers considerations to suppresse his franticke affection: Calling to minde, that Fawnia was a Shepheard: one not worthy to be loked at of a Prince; much lesse to be loued of such a Potentate: thinking what a discredite it were to himselfe, and what a

griefe

griefe it would be to his father: blaming fortune, and accuſing his own folly, that would be ſo fond, as but once to caſt a glance at ſuch a country ſlut. And as thus he was raging againſt himſelfe, Loue (fearing, if he dallied long, to loſe her Champion) kept more nigh, and gaue him ſuch a freſh wound, as it pierſt him at the heart, that he was faine to yéld maugre his face, and to forſake the company, and get him to his Chamber, where being ſolemnly ſet, he burſt into theſe paſſionate termes.

AH Doraſtus art thou alone? No not alone, while thou art tyred with theſe vnacquainted paſſions. Yélde to fancie thou canſt not by thy fathers counſell: but in a frenzie thou art, by iuſt deſtinies. Thy father were content, if thou couldeſt loue: and thou therefore diſcontent, becauſe thou doeſt loue. O diuine Loue, feared of men, becauſe honoured of the Gods: not to be ſuppreſſed by wiſedome, becauſe not to be comprehended by reaſon; without law, and therefore aboue law.

How now Doraſtus? why doeſt thou blaze that with praiſes which thou haſt cauſe to blaſpheme with curſes? Yet why ſhould they curſe loue, which are in loue?

Bluſh Doraſtus at thy fortune, thy choyſe, thy loue: thy thoughts cannot be vttered without ſhame, nor thy affections without diſcredit. Ah Fawnia, ſweet Fawnia, thy beautie Fawnia.

Shameſt not thou Doraſtus, to name one vnfit for thy birth, thy dignities, thy kingdomes? Die Doraſtus, Doraſtus die. Better haddeſt thou periſh with high deſires, then liue in baſe thoughts. Yea but beautie muſt be obeyed, becauſe it is beautie: yet framed of the Gods to féede the eye, not to fetter the heart.

Ah, but he that ſtriueth againſt Loue, ſhooteth with them of Scyrum againſt the winde, and with the Cockatrice pecketh againſt the Stéele. I will therefore obey, becauſe I muſt obey. Fawnia, yea Fawnia ſhall be my fortune, in ſpight of fortune. The Gods aboue diſdaine not to loue women beneath. Phœbus liked Daphne; Iupiter, Io: and why not I then Fawnia? one ſomething inferiour to theſe in birth: but farre ſuperiour to them in beautie: borne to be a Shepheard, but worthy to be a Goddeſſe.

Ah

Ah Doraſtus, loſt thou ſo to forget thy ſelfe as to ſuffer affection to ſuppreſſe wiſedome, and loue to violate thine honour? How lowre will thy choyſe be to thy Father, ſorrowfull to thy Subiects, to thy friends a griefe, moſt gladſome to thy foes? Subdue then thy affection, and ceaſe to loue her whom thou couldeſt not loue, vnleſſe blinded with to much loue. Tuſh, I talke to the winde, and in ſeeking to preuent the cauſes, I further the effects. I will yet praiſe Fawnia, honour, yea and loue Fawnia, and at this day follow content, not counſell. Doe Doraſtus, thou canſt not repent: and with that, his Page came into the chamber: whereupon he ceaſed from complaints, hoping that time would weare out that which Fortune had wrought. As thus he was pained, ſo poore Fawnia was diuerſly perplexed. For the nert morning getting vp very early, ſhe went to her sheepe, thinking with hard labours to paſſe away her new conceiued amours, beginning very eaſily to driue them to the field, and then to thirſt the folds. At laſt (wearied with toyle) ſhe ſate her downe, where (poore ſoule) ſhe was more tyred with fond affections. For loue began to aſſault her: inſomuch, that as ſhe ſate vpon the ſide of a hill, ſhe began to accuſe her owne folly in theſe termes.

Vnfortunate Fawnia, and therefore infortunate becauſe Fawnia, thy ſhepheards hooke ſheweth thy poore eſtate, thy proud deſires an aſpiring mind: the one declareth thy want, the other thy pride. No baſtard Hauke muſt ſoare ſo high as the Hobby, no Fowle gaze againſt the Sunne, but the Eagle: actions wrought againſt nature, reape deſpight: and thoughts aboue Fortune, diſdaine.

Fawnia, thou art a ſhepheard, Daughter to poore Porrus: if thou reſt content with this, thou art like to ſtand: if thou climbe, thou art like to fall. The hearbe Anita growing higher then fiue inches, becommeth a weede. Nilus flowing more then twelue Cubits, procureth a dearth. Daring affections that paſſe meaſure, are cut short by time or Fortune. Suppreſſe then Fawnia, thoſe thoughts which thou mayeſt ſhame to expreſſe. But ah Fawnia, loue is a Lord: who will commaund by power, and conſtraine by force.

Doraſtus

Doraſtus, ah Doraſtus is the man I loue: the woꝛſe is thy hap, and the leſſe cauſe haſt thou to hope. Will Eagles catch at flies? will Cedars ſtoupe at brambles? oꝛ mighty Pꝛinces looke at ſuch homely Fruits? No, no: thinke this, Doraſtus diſdaine is greater then thy deſire. He is a Pꝛince, reſpecting his honour; thou a beggers brat forgetting thy calling. Ceaſe then not onely to ſay, but to thinke to loue Doraſtus: and diſſemble thy loue Fawnia. Foꝛ better it were to die with griefe, than to liue with ſhame. Yet in deſpight of loue I will ſigh, to ſee if I can ſigh out loue. Fawnia, ſomewhat appeaſing her griefes with theſe pitthy perſwaſions, began after her wonted manner to walke about her ſheepe, and to keepe them from ſtraying into the coꝛne: ſuppꝛeſſing her affection with the due conſideration of her baſe eſtate, and with the impoſſibilities of her loue: thinking it were a frenzie (not fancie) to couet that which the very deſtinies denie her to obtaine.

But Doraſtus was moꝛe impatient in his paſſions. Foꝛ Loue ſo fiercely aſſayled him, that neither company, noꝛ Muſicke could mittigate his Maꝛtyꝛdome: but did rather farre the moꝛe increaſe his maladie. Shame would not let him craue counſell in this caſe: noꝛ feare of his fathers diſpleaſure, reueile it to any ſecrete friend: but he was faine to make a Secretarie of himſelfe, and to participate his thoughts with his owne troubled minde. Lingring thus a while in doubtfull ſuſpence, at laſt ſtealing ſecretly from the Court, without eyther man oꝛ Page, he went to ſee if he could eſpie Fawnia walking abꝛoad in the field. But, as one hauing a great deale moꝛe ſkill to retriue the Partridge with his Spaniels, then to hunt after ſuch a ſtrange pꝛey, he ſought, but was little the better. Which croſſe lucke dꝛaue him into a great choler, that he began both to accuſe Loue and foꝛtune. But as he was ꝛeadie to retire, he ſaw Fawnia ſitting all alone vnder the ſide of an hil, making a Garland of ſuch homely flowers as the fieldes did affoꝛd. This ſight ſo reuiued his ſpirits, that he dꝛew nigh, with moꝛe iudgement to take a view of her ſingular perfection: which he found to be ſuch, as in that Country attire ſhe ſtayned all the Courtly Dames of Sycilia. Whyle thus he ſtood gazing with pearcing lookes on her ſurpaſſing Beautie,

Fawnia caſt her eye aſide, and eſpies Doraſtus. Which ſodaine ſight made the poore girle to bluſh, and to die her Chriſtall cheekes with the vermilion red: which gaue her ſuch a grace, as ſhe ſeemed farre more beautifull, and with that ſhe roſe vp, ſaluting the Prince with ſuch modeſt courteſies, as he wondered how a countrey maide could affoord ſuch courtly behauiour. Doraſtus repaying her courteſie with a ſmiling countenance, began to parley with her on this manner.

FAire maide (quoth he) eyther your want is great, or a ſhepheards life very ſweete, that your delight is in ſuch countrey labours. I cannot conceiue what pleaſure you ſhould take, vnleſſe you meane to imitate the Nimphes, being your ſelfe ſo like a Nimph. To put me out of this doubt, ſhew me what is to be commended in a Shepheards life, and what pleaſures you haue to counteruaile theſe drudging labours. Fawnia, with bluſhing face, made him this anſwere.

SIr, what richer ſtate then content? or what ſweeter life then quiet? We ſhepheards are not borne to honour, nor beholding vnto beautie: the leſſe care we haue to feare fame or fortune. We count our attire braue enough, if warme enough: and our food daintie, if to ſuffice nature: our greateſt enemy is the wolfe: our onely care, in ſafe keeping our flocke, in ſtead of courtly dities, wee ſpend the daies with country ſongs: our amorous conceits are homely thoughts: delighting as much to talke of Pan and his country pranker, as Ladies to tell of Venus and her wanton toyes. Our toyle is in ſhifting the foldes, and looking to the Lambes, eaſie labours: oft ſitting and telling tales: homely pleaſures: our greateſt wealth, not to couet, our honor, not to climbe: our quiet, not to care. Enuie loueth not ſo low as Shepheards: Shepheards gaze not ſo high as ambition: we are rich, in that we are poore with content: and proud onely in this, that we haue no cauſe to be proud.

THis wittie anſwere of Fawnia ſo inflamed Doraſtus fancy, as hee commended himſelfe for making ſo good choyce: thinking, if her birth were anſwerable to her wit and beautie,

tie, that ſhee were a fit mate for the moſt famous Prince in the World. Yet therefore began to fixte her more narrowly on this manner.

FAwnia, I ſee thou art content with Countrey-labours, becauſe thou knoweſt not Courtly pleaſures: I commend thy Wit, and pitty thy want. But wilt thou leaue thy Fathers Cottage, and ſerue a Courtly Miſtreſſe?

Syr (quoth ſhe) Beggers ought not to ſtriue againſt Fortune, nor to gaze againſt Honour; leaſt eyther their fall be greater, or they become blinde. I am borne to toyle for the Court, not in the Court: My nature vnfit for theyr nature: better liue in meane degree, then liue in high diſdaine.

Well ſaid Fawnia (quoth Doraſtus) I geſſe at thy thoughts, thou art in loue with ſome Countrey-Shepheard.

No Syr (qd. ſhe) Shepheards cannot loue, that are ſo ſimple: and Maydes may not loue that are ſo young.

May therefore (quoth Doraſtus) Maydes muſt loue becauſe they are young: for Cupid is a Childe, and Venus, though olde, is painted with freſh colours.

I grant (ſaid ſhe) Age may be painted with newe ſhadowes, and Youth may haue imperfect affections: but what art concealeth in one, Ignorance reuealeth in the other. Doraſtus ſeeing Fawnia helde him ſo hard, thought it was paine ſo long to beate about the Buſh: therefore he thought to haue giuen her a freſh charge: but hee was ſo preuented by certaine of his men; who miſſing their Maiſter, came Poſting to ſeeke him, ſeeing that he was gone forth all alone; Yet before they driue ſo nigh that they might heare theyr talke, he vſed theſe ſpeeches.

Why Fawnia, perhappes I loue thee, and then thou muſt needes yeelde. For thou knoweſt I can commaund and conſtraine. Truth Syr (quoth ſhe) but not to loue: for conſtrained loue is force, not Loue: And know this Syr, mine honeſtie is ſuch, as I had rather dye, then be a concubine, euen vnto a king: and my birth is ſo baſe, as I am vnfit to be a Wife vnto a poore Farmer. Why then (quoth he) thou canſt not loue Doraſtus. Yes (ſaide Fawnia) when Doraſtus becomes a Shepheard: and with that the preſence of his men broke off theyr Parley; ſo that

hee went with them to the Pallace, and left Fawnia sitting still on the Hill side: Who, seing that the Night drew on, shifted her Foldes, and busied her selfe about other worke, to drive away such fond fancies as beganne to trouble her braine. But all this could not prevaile: for the beautie of Dorastus had made such a deepe Impression in her heart, as it could not be worne out without cracking; So that shee was fayne to blame her owne folly, in this wise.

AY Fawnia, why doest thou gaze against the Sunne, or catch at the Winde? Starres are to be looked at with the Eye, not reached at with the hand: Thoughtes are to be measured by Fortunes, not by desires; Falles come not by sitting lowe, but by climing to high. What then, shall all feare to fall, because some happe to fall? No, Lucke commeth by Lot, and fortune windeth those threeds which the Destinies spinne. Thou art favoured Fawnia of a Prince, and yet thou art so fond to reiect desired favours: Thou hest denyall at thy tongues end, and desire at thy hearts bottome: a Womans fault, to spurne at that with her foote, which she greedily catcheth at with her hand: Thou lovest Dorastus, Fawnia; and yet seemest to lowre. Take heede, if he retire, thou wilt repent. for unlesse he love, thou canst but die. Die then Fawnia: for Dorastus doth but iest. The Lyon never preyeth on the Mouse: nor doe Faulcons stoupe to dead stales. Sit downe then in this sorrow; Cease to love, and content thy selfe, that Dorastus will vouchsafe for to flatter Fawnia, though not to fancie Fawnia. Heigh-ho: Ah-fole, It were seemelyer for thee to whistle as a Shepheard, then to sigh as a Lover: And with that she ceased from these perplexed passions: folding her Sheepe, and hying home to her poore Cottage. But such was the unconstant sorrowe of Dorastus, to thinke on the Wit and Beauty of Fawnia: and to see how fond hee was, being a Prince: and how forward she was being a Begger: that he began to lose his wonted Appetite, to looke pale and wanne: in steede of myrth, to feed on melancholy: for Courtly daunces, to use colde Dumps. Insomuch, that not onely his owne men, but his Father, and all the Court began to marvell at his suddaine change, thinking that some lingring sicknesse had brought

him

him into this ſtate. Wherefore he cauſed Phyſitions to come. But Doraſtus neyther would let them miniſter, nor ſo much as ſuffer them to ſée his Urine: but remained ſtill ſo oppreſſed with theſe Paſſions, as he feared in himſelfe a further inconuenience. His Honour wiſhed him to ceaſe from ſuch follie: but Loue, forced him to follow Fancie: yea, and in deſpight of Honour Loue wonne the conqueſt. So that his hote deſires cauſed him to find newe deuices. For hee preſently made himſelfe a Shepheards Coate, that hee might goe vnknowne, and with leſſe ſuſpition to prattle with Fawnia: and conueyed it ſecretly into a thicke Groue hard adioyning to the Pallace: whither finding fit time and opportunity he went all alone; And putting off his Princely Apparell, got on thoſe Shepheards-roabs: and taking a great Yoke in his hand (which hee alſo had gotten) he went very anciently to finde out the Miſtreſſe of his Affection. But as hee went by the way, ſéeing himſelfe clad in ſuch vnſéemely Ragges, he beganne to ſmile at his owne follie, and to reproue his fondnes, in theſe termes.

WEll ſaid Doraſtus, thou kéepeſt a good Decorum; Baſe deſires, and homely Attyres: Thy thoughts are fit for none but a Shepheard, and thy Apparell ſuch as onely becomes a Shepheard. A ſtrange change; from a Prince to a Peaſant. What, Is it thy wretched Fortune, or thy wilfull follie? Is it thy curſed Deſtinies, or thy crooked deſires, that appointeth thee this Penance? Ah Doraſtus, thou canſt but loue, and vnleſſe thou loue, thou art like to periſh for loue. Yet, fond ſoule, chooſe flowers, not Wéeds; Diamonds, not Pibbles: Ladies, which may honour thee: not Shepheards which may diſgrace thée. Venus is painted in ſilkes, not in ragges: and Cupid treadeth on diſdaine, when he reacheth at dignitie. And yet Doraſtus, ſhame not at thy Shepheards wéede: the heauenly Gods haue ſometime earthly thoughts: Neptune became a Ramme, Iupiter a Bull, Apollo, a Shepheard; they Gods, and yet in loue: and thou a man appointed to loue.

Deuiſing thus with himſelfe, hee drewe nigh to the place where Fawnia was kéeping her Shéepe: who caſting her Eye aſide, and ſéeing ſuch a mannerly Shepheard, perfectly limm'de,

and comming with so good a pace, she began halfe to forget Dorastus, and to fauour this pretty Shepheard, whom she thought she might both loue and obtaine. But as she was in these thoughts, shee perceiued then, it was the young Prince Dorastus: wherefore she rose vp, and reuerently saluted him. Dorastus taking her by the hand, reyaed her Courtesie with a sweete kisse, and praying her to sit downe by him, he began thus to lay the Battery.

IF thou maruell Fawnia at my strange Attyre, thou wouldest much more muse at myne vnaccustomed thoughtes: The one disgraceth but my outward shape, the other disturbeth my inward sences: I loue Fawnia, and therefore what Loue liketh, I cannot mislike. Fawnia thou hast promised to loue, and I hope thou wilt performe no lesse: I haue fulfilled thy request; and now thou canst not but graunt my desire. Thou wert content to loue Dorastus, when he ceast to be a Prince, and became a Shepheard: And sir, I haue made a change, and therefore not to misse of my choyce.

TRuth (quoth Fawnia;) but all that weare Coules are not Monkes: Painted Eagles are pictures, not Eagles: Zeuxis grapes were like Grapes, yet shadowes: Rich Clothing make not Princes; nor homely attyre Beggars: Shepheards are not called shepheards, because they weare Hookes and Bagges, but because they are borne poore, & liue to kepe Sheepe: So this attyre hath not made Dorastus a Shepheard, but to seeme like a Shepheard.

WEll Fawnia, (answered Dorastus) were I a Shepheard, I could not but like thee: being a Prince, I am forst to loue thee. Take heede Fawnia, be not proud of Beauties painting: For it is a flower that fadeth in the blossome. Those which disdaine in youth, are despised in age. Beauties shaddowes are trickt vp with Limes colours: Which being set to drye in the Sunne are stained with the Sunne, scarce pleasing the sight, yet they begin not to be worth the sight: not much vnlike the Hearbe Ephimeron, which flourisheth in the morning, and is withereth before the Sunne-setting. If my desire were

against

againſt law, thou mighteſt iuſtly denie me by reaſon: but I loue thee Fawnia: not to miſuſe thee as a Concubine, but to vſe thee as my wife; I can promiſe no more, and meane to performe no leſſe.

Fawnia hearing this ſolemne proteſtation of Doraſtus, could no longer withſtand the aſſault, but yelded vp the Fort, in theſe friendly termes.

AH Doraſtus, I ſhame to expreſſe that thou forceſt me with thy ſugred ſpæch to confeſſe: my baſe birth cauſeth the one, and thy high dignities the other. Beggers thoughts ought not to reach ſo farre as Kings, and yet my deſires reach as high as Princes. I dare not ſay Doraſtus I loue thee, becauſe I am a Shepheard: but the Gods know I haue honoured Doraſtus, (pardon if I ſay amiſſe) yea and loued Doraſtus with ſuch dutifull affection, as Fawnia can performe, or Doraſtus deſire: I yeld not, ouercome with prayers, but with Loue: reſting Doraſtus hand-maid, readie to obey his will, if no preiudice at all to his honour, nor my credite.

DOraſtus hearing this friendly concluſion of Fawnia, embraced her in his armes, ſwearing that neyther diſtance, time, nor aduerſe Fortune ſhould diminiſh his affection: but that in deſpight of the deſtinies he would remaine ioyfull vnto death. Hauing thus plight their troth each to other, ſeing they could not haue the full fruition of their loue in Sycilia, for that Egiſtus content would neuer be granted to ſo meane a match, Doraſtus determined aſſone as time and opportunitie would giue him leaue, to prouide a great maſſe of money, and many rich and coſtly Iewels, for the eaſier cariage: and then to tranſport themſelues and their Treaſure into Italy, where they ſhould leade a contented life, vntill ſuch time as eyther he could be reconciled to his Father, or elſe by ſucceſſion come to the Kingdome. This deuice was greatly prayſed of Fawnia: for ſhe feared, if the King his father ſhould but heare of the contract, that his fury would be ſuch, as no leſſe then death ſhould ſtand for payment. She therefore told him, that delay bred danger: that many miſhaps did fall out betweene the

cup

cup and lip: and that to auoyd anger, it were beſt with as much ſpæd as might be, to paſſe out of Sicylia, leaſt Fortune might preuent their patience with ſome new deſpight. Doraſtus, whom loue pricked forward with deſire, promiſed to diſpatch his affaires with as great haſt, as eyther time or opportunitie would giue him leaue: and ſo reſting vpon this point, after many embracings and ſwæte kiſſes, they departed. Doraſtus, hauing taken his leaue of his beſt beloued Fawnia, went to the groue where he had his rich apparell, and there vncaſing himſelfe as ſecretly as might be, hiding vp his Shepheards attire, till occaſion ſhould ſerue againe to vſe it: he went to the Pallace, ſhewing by his merrie countenance, that eyther the ſtate of his body was amended, or the cauſe of his minde greatly redreſſed. Fawnia poore ſoule was no leſſe toyfull, that being a Shepheard, Fortune had fauoured her ſo, as to reward her with the loue of a Prince: hoping in time to be aduanced from the daughter of a poore farmer, to be a wife to a rich King. So that ſhe thought euery houre a yeare, till by their departure they might preuent danger: not ceaſing ſtill to goe euery day to her ſheepe: not ſo much for the care of the flocke, as for the deſire ſhe had to ſee her loue and Lord Doraſtus: who oftentimes when opportunitie would ſerue, repaired thither to feede his fancie with his ſwæte content of Fawniaes preſence. And although he neuer went to viſit her, but in theſe Shepheards ragges, yet his oft repaire made him not onely ſuſpected, but knowne to diuers of their neighbours: who for the good will they bare to old Porrus, told him ſecretly of the matter, wiſhing him to keepe his daughter at home, leaſt ſhe went ſo oft to the field, that ſhe brought him home a young ſonne. For they feared that Fawnia being ſo beautifull, the young Prince would allure her to folly. Porrus was ſtricken into a dumpe at theſe newes, ſo that thanking his neighbours for their good will, he hied him home to his wife: and calling her aſide, wringing his hands, and ſhedding forth teares, he bewraie the matter to her in theſe termes.

I Am afraid wife, that my daughter Fawnia hath made her ſelfe ſo fine, that ſhe will buy repentance too deare. I heare

newes

Gelues, which if they be true, some will wish they had not proued true. It is tolde mee by my Neighbours, that Doraſtus the Kings Sonne begins to loke at our Daughter Fawnia: which if it be so, I will not giue her a halfe-pennie for her Honeſtie at the yeares ende. I tell thee Wife, now a dayes beauty is a great stale to trap young men: and faire words and sweete promises are two great enemyes to Maidens chastitie: and thou knowest, where poore men intreate and cannot obtaine, there Princes may commaund, and will obtaine. Though Kings Sonnes daunce in Nets, they may not be seene: yet poore mens faultes are spyed at a little hole. Well, it is a hard case where King-Lusts are Lawes, and that they should binde poore men to that which they themselues wilfully breake.

Peace Husband (quoth his Wife) take heede what you say: speake no more then you should, least you heare what you would not. Great streames are to be stopped by sleights, not by force: and Princes to be perswaded by submission, not by rigour: Doe what you can, but no more then you may; least in sauing Fawnias Mayden-head, you lose your owne head.

Take heede I say, it is ill iesting with Edge-tooles, and badde sporting with Kings. The Wolfe had his skin pulled ouer his Eares, for but loking into the Lyons denne. Tush Wife (qd. he) thou speakest like a fole: If the King should know that Doraſtus had gotten our Daughter with Childe (as I feare it will fall out little better) the Kings furie would be such, as no doubt wee should both lose our goods and liues: Necessity therefore hath no Law, and I will preuent this mischiefe with a new deuice that is come into my head, which shall neither offend the King, nor displease Doraſtus. I meane to take the Chayne and the Iewells that I found with Fawnia, and carry them to the King: letting him then to vnderstand, how shee is none of my Daughter, but that I found her beaten vp with the Water alone, in a little Boate, and wrapped in a rich Mantle, wherein was inclosed this Treasure. By this meanes I hope the King will take Fawnia into his seruice, and wee whatsoeuer chanceth, shall be blamelesse. This deuice pleased the Good-Wife very well, so that they determined as soone as they might knowe the King at leysure, to make him priuie to this case. In the meane time,

Doraſtus was not ſlacke in his affayres, but applyed his matters with ſuch diligence, that he prouided all things fit for they^r iourney. Treaſure and Iewels he had gotten great ſtore, thinking there was no better friend then Money in a ſtrange Countrey: Rich Attyre he had prouided for Fawnia: and becauſe he could not bring the matter to paſſe without the help and aduiſement of ſome one, hee made an olde Seruant of his called Capnio, who hadde ſerued him from his Child-hode, priuie to his affayres; Who, ſeing no perſwaſions could preuaile to diuert him from his ſetled determination, gaue his conſent, and dealt ſo ſecretly in the cauſe, that within ſhort ſpace he had gotten a Shippe readie for they^r paſſage. The Mariners ſeing a fit gale of winde for their purpoſe, wiſhed Capnio to make no delayes, leaſt (if they pretermitted this good Weather) they might ſtay long ere they had ſuch a faire Winde.

Capnio, fearing that his negligence ſhould hinder the iourney, in the night time conueyed the Trunckes full of Treaſure into the Ship, and by ſecret meanes let Fawnia vnderſtand, that the next morning they meant to depart. She vpon this newes ſlept very little that night, but got her vp very early, and went to her Sheepe, looking euery minute when ſhe ſhould ſee Doraſtus; who tarryed not long, for feare Delay might breede danger: but came as faſt as he could Gallop, and without any great circumſtance tooke Fawnia vp behinde him, and rode to the Hauen where the Shippe lay, which was three quarters of a mile diſtant from that place. Hee no ſooner came there, but the Mariners were readie with they^r Cock-boate to ſet them aboord: where being couched together in a Cabbine, they paſt away the Time in recounting they^r olde Loues, till they^r man Capnio ſhould come.

Porrus, who had hearde that this Morning the King would goe abroade to take the Ayre, called in haſte his Wife to bring him his Holie-day Hoſe, and his beſt Iacket, that hee might goe like an honeſt ſubſtantiall man to tell his Tale. His Wife a good cleanly Wench, brought him all things fitte, and ſponged him vp very handſomely, giuing him the Chaine and the Iewels in a little boxe: which Porrus for the more ſafety put in his boſome. Hauing thus his trinkets in a readineſſe, taking his ſtaffe in his hand, he bad his Wife kiſſe him for good lucke, and ſo he

went

went towards the Pallace. But as he was going, Fortune (who meant to shew him a little false play) preuented his purpose in this wise.

He met by chance in his way Capnio, who trudging as fast as he could with a little Coffer vnder his arme to the ship, and spying Porrus, whom he knew to be Fawniaes Father going towards the Pallace: being a wily fellow, began to doubt the worst, and therefore croſt him the way, and asked him whither he was going so early in the morning.

Porrus (who knew by his face that he was one of the Court) meaning simply, told him that the Kings sonne Doraſtus dealt harely with him: for he had but one Daughter who was a little beautifull, and that his neighbours told him, the young Prince had allured her to folly: he went therefore now to complaine to the King how greatly he was abused.

Capnio (who straight way smelt the whole matter) began to soth him in his talke, and said, that Doraſtus dealt not like a Prince to spoyle any poore mans daughter in that sort: he therefore would doe the best for him he could, because he knew he was an honest man. But (quoth Capnio) you lose your labour in going to the Pallace: for the King meanes this day to take the ayre of the Sea, and to goe aboord of a ship that lies in the Hauen: I am going before you sir, to prouide all things in a readinesse: and if you will follow my counsell, turne backe with me to the hauen, where I will set you in such a fit place as you may speake to the King at your Pleasure. Porrus giuing credit to Capnioes smoth tale, gaue him a thousand thanks for his friendly aduise, and went with him to the Hauen, making all the way his complaint on Doraſtus; yet concealing secretly his Chaine and the Iewels. Assone as they were come to the Sea side, the marriners seeing Capnio, came to land with their Cock-boate: who still dissembling the matter, demanded of Porrus if he would goe see the Ship: who vnwilling and fearing the worst, because he was not well acquainted with Capnio, made his excuse, that he could not brooke the Sea, and therefore would not trouble him.

Capnio, seeing that by faire meanes he could not get him aboord, commaunded the Marriners that by violence they should

carried him into a ship, who like Turkish knaues hoysted the poore Shepheard on their backes, and bearing him to the Boate, lanched from the land.

Porrus seeing himselfe so cunningly betrayed, durst not crie out, for he saw it would not preuaile: but began to intreate Capnio and the Marriners to be good to him, and to pitie his estate, he was but a poore man that liued by his labour: they laughing to see the Shepheard so afraid, made as much hast as they could to set him aboord. Porrus was no sooner in the ship, but he saw Dorastus walking with Fawnia, yet he scarce knew her: for she had attyred her selfe in rich apparell, which so increased her beautie, that she resembled rather an Angell, then a creature.

Dorastus and Fawnia were halfe astonished to see the olde Shepheard, marualling greatly what winde had brought him thither, till Capnio told them all the whole discourse: how Porrus was going to make his complaint to the King, if by policie he had not preuented him: and therefore now sith he was aboord, for the auoyding of further danger, it were best to carry him into Italy.

Dorastus praised greatly his mans deuice, and allowed of his counsaile: but Fawnia (who still feared Porrus as her Father) began to blush for shame, that by her meanes he should eyther incurre danger or displeasure.

The old Shepheard hearing this hard sentence: that he should on such a suddaine be carried from his wife, his Countey and kinsfolke, into a forraine land amongst strangers, began with bitter teares to make his complaint, and on his knees to intreat Dorastus, that pardoning his vnaduised folly, he would giue him leaue to go home: swearing that he would keepe all things as secret as he could wish. But these protestations could not preuaile, although Fawnia intreated Dorastus very earnestly: but the Marriners hoysting their maine sayles weighed Anchors haled into the deepe, where we leaue them to the fauour of the wind and Seas, and returne to Egistus.

WHo hauing appointed this day to hunt in one of his Forrests, called for his Sonne Dorastus to goe sport himselfe,

himselfe, because he saw that of late he began to lowre: but his men made answere, that he was gone abroad none knew whither, except he were gone to the grone to walke all alone as his custome was euery day.

The King willing to waken him out of his dumpes, sent one of his men to goe seeke him, but in vaine: for at last he returned, but find him he could not, so that the King went himselfe to goe se the sport: where passing away the day, returning at night from hunting, he asked for his sonne, but he could not be heard of, which drawe the King into a great choler: whereupon most of his Noble men and other Courtiers, posted abroad to seeke him, but they could not heare of him through all Sycilia: onely they missed Capnio his man, which againe made the King suspect that he was not gone farre.

Two or three daies being passed, and no newes heard of Doraſtus, Egiſtus began to feare that he was devoured with some wilde beasts, and vpon that made out a great troupe of men to goe seeke him: who coasted through all the Countrey, and searched in every dangerous and secret place, vntill at last they met with a Fisherman, that was sitting in a little covert hard by the Sea side mending his Nets, when Doraſtus and Fawnia tooke shipping: who being examined if he eyther knew and heard where the Kings sonne was, without any fear or dye at all revealed the whole matter, how he was sayled two daies past, and had in his company his man Capnio, Porrus, and his faire daughter Fawnia. This heavie newes was presently carried to the King, who halfe dead for sorrow, commaunded Porrus wife to be sent for: she being come to the Pallace, after due examination, confessed that her neighbours had oft told her that the Kings Sonne was too familiar with Fawnia her daughter: whereupon her husband fearing the worst, about two daies past (hearing the King should goe on hunting) rose early in the morning, and went to make his complaint, but since she never heard of him, nor saw him. Egiſtus perceiving the womans vnfeigned simplicitie, let her depart without incurring further displeasure, conceiving such secret griefe for his Sonnes wretchlesse folly, that he had so forgotten his honour and Parentage, by so base a choyce to dis-

nour his Father, and discredit himselfe, that with very care and thought he fell into a quartan feuer: which was so vnfit for his aged yeares and complexion, that he became so weake as the Physitions would grant him no life.

But his sonne Dorastus little regarded eyther Father, Countrey, or kingdome, in respect of his Ladie Fawnia: for Fortune smiling on this young nouice, sent him so luckie a gale of wind, for the space of a day and a night, that the Marriners lay and slept vpon the hatches: but on the next morning about the breake of the day, the ayre began to ouercast, the windes to rise, the Seas to swell, & presently there arose such a fearefull tempest, as the Ship was in dãger to be swallowed vp with euery waue, the maine Maste with the violence of the Winde was throwne ouer-bord, the Sailes were torne, the Tackling rent a sunder, the storme raging still so furiously, that poore Fawnia was almost dead for feare, but that she was greatly comforted with the presence of Dorastus. The tempest continued three daies, all which time, the Marriners euery minute looked for death, and the ayre was so darkened with clouds, that the Master could not tell by the compasse in what Coast they were. But vpon the fourth day about ten of the clocke, the winde began to cease, the Sea to ware calme, and the skie to be cleare, and the Marriners discried the coast of Bohemia, shoting off their Ordinance for ioy that they had escaped such a fearefull tempest.

Dorastus hearing that they were arriued at some harbour, sweetly kissed Fawnia, and bad her be of good cheare: when they told him that the Port belonged to the chiefe Citie of Bohemia where Pandosto kept his Court, Dorastus beganne to be sad: knowing that his Father hated no man so much as Pandosto, and that the king himselfe had sought secretly to betray Egistus: this considered, hee was halfe afraid to goe on land, but that Capnio counselled him, to change his name and his Countrey, vntill such time as they could get some other Barke to transport them into Italy. Dorastus liking this deuice, made his case priuie to the Marriners, rewarding them bountifully for their paines, and charging them to say, that he was a Gentleman of Trapolonia called Meleagrus. The Shipmen, willing to shew what friendship they could to Dorastus,

ſtus, promiſed to be as ſecret as they could, or hée might with: and vpon this, they landed in a Village a Mile diſtant from the Citie: Where, after they had reſted a day, thinking to make Prouiſion for their Marriage, the Fame of Fawniaes beautie was ſpred throughout all the Citie: ſo that it came to the eare of Pandoſto; who then being about the age of fiftie, had notwithſtanding young and freſh Affections: So that he deſired greatly to ſée Fawnia: and to bring this matter the better to paſſe, hearing they had but one man, and how they reſted at a very homely houſe, he cauſed them to be apprehended as Spyes, and ſent a douzen of his Guard to take them: Who being come to their Lodging, tolde them the Kings Meſſage. Doraſtus no whit diſmayed, accompanyed with Fawnia and Capnio, went to the Court, (for they left Porrus to kéepe the ſtuffe) who being admitted to the Kings preſence, Doraſtus and Fawnia with humble obeyſance ſaluted his Maieſtie.

Pandoſto, amazed at the ſingular perfection of Fawnia, ſtood halfe aſtonished, viewing her Beautie: ſo that hee almoſt forgot himſelfe what he had to doe. At laſt with ſterne countenance, he demaunded their Names, and of what Countrey they were, and what cauſed them to Land in Bohemia? Syr (quoth Doraſtus) Know that my name is Meleagrus, a Knight borne and brought vp in Trapolonia: and this Gentlewoman, whome I meane to take to my Wife, is an Italian, borne in Padua, from whence I haue now brought her. The cauſe I haue ſo ſmall a Trayne with me, is, for that her Friends vnwilling to conſent, I intended ſecretly to conuey her into Trapolonia, whither I was ſayling, and by diſtreſſe of weather, I was driuen into theſe Coaſtes. Thus haue you heard my Name, my Countrey, and the cauſe of my Voyage. Pandoſto ſtarting from his Seate, as one in choller, made this rough Replie.

Meleagrus, I feare this ſmooth Tale hath but a ſmall truth, and that thou coueréſt a fowle ſkinne with faire paintings. No doubt this Ladie, by her grace and Beautie, is of higher degrée, more méete for a mighty Prince, then for a ſimple Knight: and thou like a periured Traytor, haſt bereft her of her Parents, to their preſent griefe, and her enſuing ſorrowe: Till therefore I heare more of her Parentage, and of her calling, I will ſtay you

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both here in Bohemia.

Dorastus, in whome rested nothing but Kingly valour, was not able to suffer the reproaches of Pandosto, but that he made him this answere.

IT is not méete for a King, without due proofe to appeach any man of ill behauiour, nor vppon suspition to inferre Beliefe: Strangers ought to be entertained with courtesie: not to be intreated with cruelty, least being forced by want to pūt vp Iniuries, the Gods reuenge their cause with rigour.

Pandosto hearing Dorastus vtter these wordes, commanded that he should straight be committed to Prison, vntill such time as they heard further of his pleasure: but as for Fawnia, hee charged that shee should be entertained in the Court, with such courtesie as belonged to a Stranger, and her calling. The rest of the Shipmen put into the Dungeon.

Hauing thus handled the supposed Trapolitanians: Pandosto contrary to his aged yeares, beganne to be somewhat tickled with the beautie of Fawnia; insomuch that he could take no rest, but cast in his olde Head a thousand new deuices: At last he fell into these thoughts.

HOw art thou thus pestered Pandosto with fresh Affections, and vnfitte Fancies, wishing to possesse with an vnwilling minde, and a hote Desire troubled with a colde disdaine? Shal thy minde yeeld in Age, to that thou hast resisted in youth?

Peace Pandosto, blabbe not out that which thou mayest be ashamed to reueale to thy selfe. Ah Fawnia is beautifull, and it is not for thine Honour (fond Foole,) to name her that is thy Captiue, and another mans Concubine. Alas, I reach at that with my hand, which my heart would faine refuse: playing like the Byrd Ibis in Ægypt, which hateth Serpents, and yet feedeth on theyr Egges.

Tush, hote Desires turne oftentimes to colde disdaine: Loue is brittle, where Appetite, not Reason, beares the sway: Kings thoughtes ought not to climbe so high as the Heauens; but to looke no lower then Honour: better is it to pecke at the Starres with the young Eagles, then to Prey on dead Carkasses with

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the Vulture: it is more honourable for Pandoſto to die by concealing Loue, then to enioy ſuch vnſitte Loue. Doth Pandoſto then Loue? Yea. Whom? A maide vnknowne, yea and perhaps immodeſt, straggled out of her owne Countrie: beautifull, but not therefore chaſt: comely in body, but perhappes crooked in minde. Ceaſe then Pandoſto to looke at Fawnia, much leſſe to loue her: be not ouertaken with a womans beautie, whoſe eyes are formed by art to enamour, whoſe heart is framed by nature to enchaunt: whoſe falſe teares know their true times, and whoſe ſweete wordes pierce deeper then ſharpe ſwordes. Here ceaſt Pandoſto from his talke, but not from his loue: for although he ſought by reaſon and wiſedome, to ſuppreſſe this franticke affection: yet he could take no reſt, the beautie of Fawnia had made ſuch a deepe impreſſion in his heart. But on a day walking abroade into a Parke which was hard adioyning to his houſe, he ſent by one of his ſeruants for Fawnia, vnto whom he vttered theſe wordes.

FAwnia, I commend thy beautie and wit, and neiu pittie thy diſtreſſe and want: but if thou wilt forſake Syr Meleagrus (whoſe poouertie, though a knight, is not able to maintaine an eſtate anſwerable to thy beautie) and yeld thy conſent to Pandoſto, I will both increaſe thee with dignities and riches. No Sir, anſwered Fawnia, Meleagrus is a knight that hath wonne me by Loue, and none but he ſhall weare me: his ſiniſter miſchaunce ſhall not diminiſh my affection, but rather increaſe my good will: thinke not, though your Grace hath impriſoned him without cauſe, that feare will make me yeld my conſent: I had rather bee Meleagrus wife, and a begger, then liue in plentie, and bee Pandoſtes Concubine. Pandoſto hearing the aſſured anſwere of Fawnia, would notwithſtanding, proſecute his ſuite to the vttermoſt: ſeeking with faire wordes and great promiſes to ſcale the Fort of her chaſtitie: ſweating that if ſhe would graunt to his deſire, Meleagrus ſhould not onely be ſet at libertie, but honoured in the Court amongſt his Nobles: but theſe allaring baytes, could not intice her in minde from the loue of her new betrothed Mate Meleagrus: which Pandoſto ſeeing, hee left her alone for that time to

conſider more of the demaund: Fawnia being alone by her ſelfe, began to fall into theſe ſolitarie meditations.

AH infortunate Fawnia, thou ſeeſt, to deſire aboue Fortune, is to ſtriue aboue Gods and Fortune. Who gazeth at the Sunne, weakeneth his ſight; they which ſtare at the Skie, fall oft into deepe pitts: hadſt thou reſted content to haue beene a Shepheard, thou neadſt not to haue feared miſchaunce: better had it beene for thee, by ſitting low, to haue had quiet, then by climing high, to haue fallen into miſery. But alas, I feare not mine owne daunger, but Doraſtus diſpleaſure. Ah ſweete Doraſtus, thou art a Prince, but now a Priſoner, by too much loue, procuring thine owne loſſe: hadſt thou not loued Fawnia, thou hadſt beene fortunate. Shall I then be falſe to him that hath forſaken kingdomes for my cauſe? No, would my death might deliuer him, ſo mine honour might be preſerued. With that, fetching a deepe ſigh, ſhe ceaſed from her complaints, and went againe to the Pallace, enioying a libertie without content, and proffred pleaſure with ſmall ioy. But poore Doraſtus lay all this while in cloſe priſon, being pinched with a hard reſtraynt, and payned with the burthen of cold and heauie Irons, ſorrowing ſometimes that his fond affection had procured him this miſhap, that by the diſobedience of his Parents, he had wrought his owne deſpight: another while curſing the Gods and Fortune, that they would croſſe him with ſiniſter chaunce, uttering at laſt his paſſions with theſe words.

Ah vnfortunate wretch borne to miſhap, now thy folly hath his deſert: art thou not worthy for thy baſe minde, to haue bad Fortune? Could the deſtinies fauour thee, which haſt forgot thine honour and dignitie? will not the Gods plague him with deſpight, that payneth his father with diſobedience? Oh Gods, if any fauour or iuſtice be left, plague me, but fauour poore Fawnia, and ſhrowde her from the tyrannies of wretched Pandoſto: but let my death free her from miſhap, and then welcome death. Doraſtus payned with theſe heauie paſſions, ſorrowed and ſighed, but in vaine, for which he vſed more patience. But againe to Pandoſto, who broyling in the heate of vnlawfull luſt, could take no reſt, but ſtill felt his minde diſquieted

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with his new Loue, so that his Nobles and Subiects maruelled greatly at his sudden Alteration: Not being able to coniecture the cause of this his continued care.

Pandosto thinking euery houre a yeare, till he had talked once again with Fawnia, sent for her secretly into his Chamber: whither Fawnia, though vnwillingly comming, Pandosto entertained her very courteously, vsing these Familiar speeches, which Fawnia answered as shortly in this wise.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, Are you become lesse wilfull and more wise, to preferre the Loue of a King before the liking of a poore Knight? I thinke ere this, you esteeme it is better to be fauoured of a King, then of a Subiect.

Fawnia.

Pandosto, the Bodie is subiect to Victories, but the minde not to be subdued with Conquest; Chastitie is to bee preferred before Honour: and a Dramme of Faith weygheth downe a Munne of Golde. I haue promised Meleagrus to loue, and will performe no lesse.

Pandosto.

Fawnia, I knowe thou art not so vnwise in thy choyce, as to refuse the Offer of a King; nor so vngratefull as to despise a good-turne: Thou art nowe in that place where I may commaund, and yet thou seest I intreate. My power is such, that I may compell by Force, and yet I sue by Prayers. Perdie Fawnia thy Loue, to him which burneth in thy loue, Meleagrus shall be set free, thy Countrey-men discharged, and thou both loued and honoured.

Fawnia.

I see Pandosto, where Lust ruleth it is a miserable thing to bee a Virgine: But knowe this, that I will alwayes preferre Fame before life, and rather chuse death then dishonour.

Pandosto seeing that there was in Fawnia a determinate Courage to loue Meleagrus; and a resolution without feare to hate him, flying away from her in a Rage, he sware, that if in short time she would not be wonne by reason, he would forget all courtesie, and compell her to grant by rigour. But those threatning words no whit dismayed Fawnia: but that shee still both

deſpited and deſpiſed Pandoſto. Whyle thus theſe two Louers ſtroue, the one to winne Loue, the other to winne Hate. Egiſtus heard certaine Newes by Merchants of Bohemia, that his Sonne Doraſtus was Impriſoned by Pandoſto: which made him feare greatly, that his Sonne ſhould bee but hardly intreated: Yet conſidering that Bellaria and hee were cleared by the Oracle of Apollo, from the crime wherewith Pandoſto had vniuſtly charged them: hee thought beſt to ſend with all ſpeede to Pandoſto, that he ſhould ſet free his Sonne Doraſtus, and put to death Fawnia, and her Father Porrus.

Finding this, by the aduiſe of Counſell, the ſpeedieſt remedie to releaſe his Sonne, he cauſed preſently two of his Ships to be rigged, and throughly furniſhed with proniſion of men and Victuals, and ſent diuers of his Nobles, Embaſſadours into Bohemia: Who willing to obey the King, and receiue their young Prince, made no delayes, for feare of danger, but with as much ſpeede as might bee, ſailed towards Bohemia; The Winde and Seas fauoured them greatly, which made them hope of ſome good happe; for within three dayes they were Landed: Which Pandoſto, no ſooner hearde of their Arriuall, but hee in Perſon went to meete them, intreating them with ſuch ſumptuous and Familiar courteſie, that they might well perceyue how ſorry he was for the former Iniuries he hadde offered to their King, and how willing (if it might bee) to make amends.

As Pandoſto made repoꝛte to them, howe one Meleagrus, a Knight of Trapolonia, was lately arriued with a Ladie called Fawnia, in his Land, comming very ſuſpitiouſly: accompanyed only with one Seruant, and an olde Shepheard: The Embaſſadours perceyued by the halfe, what the whole Tale meant, and beganne to Coniecture that it was Doraſtus, who for feare to be knowne, had changed his Name. But diſſembling the matter, they ſhortly arriued at the Court, where after they had bene very ſolemnly and ſumptuouſly feaſted: the Noble men of Sycilia being gathered together, they made repoꝛte of their Embaſſage; where they certified Pandoſto, that Meleagrus was Sonne and Heire to the King Egiſtus, and that his name was Doraſtus: and how contrary to the Kings minde he had priuily conueyed away that Fawnia, intending to marry her, being but Daughter to that

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poze Shepheard Porrus. Whereupon the kings requeſt was, that Capnio, Fawnia, and Porrus, might be murthered and put to death: & that his ſonne Doraſtus might be ſent home in ſafety.

Pandoſto hauing attentiuely and with great maruell heard thoſe Embaſſage, willing to reconcile himſelfe to Egiſtus, and to ſhewe him how greatly he eſteemed his fauour: although Loue and Fancie forbad him to hurt Fawnia, yet in deſpite of Loue he determined to execute Egiſtus Will without mercie, and therefore he preſently ſent for Doraſtus out of Priſon; who maruelling at his vnlooked for courteſie, found at his comming to the kings preſence, that which he leaſt doubted of, his Fathers Embaſſadours: Who no ſooner ſaw him, but with great reuerence they honoured him: And Pandoſto embracing Doraſtus, ſet him by him very louingly in a chayre of Eſtate.

Doraſtus aſhamed that his follie was bewrayed, ſate a long time as one in a muze, till Pandoſto tolde him the ſumme of his Fathers Embaſſage; which hee had no ſooner heard, but he was touched at the quicke for the cruel ſentence that was pronounced againſt Fawnia: but neyther could his ſorrow nor perſwaſions preuaile: For Pandoſto commaunded that Fawnia, Porrus, and Capnio, ſhould be brought to his preſence: Who were no ſooner come, but Pandoſto, hauing his former loue turned into diſdainfull hate, beganne to rage againſt Fawnia in theſe tearmes.

THou diſdainefull Vaſſall, thou curriſh Kite, aſſigned by the Deſtinies to baſe Fortune; and yet with an aſpyring minde gazing after honor: How durſt thou preſume being a Beggar, to match with a Prince? By thy allurting lookes to Enchant the Sonne of a King, to leaue his owne Countrey to fulfill thy diſordinate Luſts? O diſpitefull minde! a proud heart in a Begger, is not vnlike a great fire in a ſmal Cottage: which warmeth not the houſe, but burneth it: aſſure thy ſelfe thou ſhalt die: And thou olde doating Foole, whoſe follie hath bene ſuch, as to ſuffer thy Daughter to reach aboue thy Fortune: Looke for no other meede, but the like punithment. But Capnio, thou which haſt betraied the King, and haſt conſented to the vnlawfull luſt of thy Lorde and Maiſter, I know not how inuſtly I may plague thee: Death is to eaſie a punithment for thy Falſhode, and to

liue (if not in in extreame miſerie) were not to ſhew thée equitie. I therefore award that thou ſhalt haue thine Eyes put out, and continually till thou dyeſt, grinde in a Mylle like a brute Beaſt.

The feare of Death brought a moſt ſorrowfull ſilence vppon Fawnia and Capnio: but Porrus ſéeing no hope of life, burſt forth into theſe ſpæches.

PAndoſto, and yée Noble Embaſſadors of Sycilia, ſéeing without cauſe I am condemned to dye: I am yet glad I haue opportunitie to diſburthen my Conſcience before my Death: I will tell you as much as I know, and yet no more then is true; whereas I am accuſed that I haue bæne a ſupporter of Fawniaes pride, and ſhe diſdained as a vile Beggar; So it is, that I am neyther Father vnto her, nor ſhée Daughter vnto me.

For it ſo happened that I being a poore Shepheard in Sycilia, liuing by kéeping other mens Flocks: one of my Shéepe ſtaying downe to the Sea-ſide; as I went to ſéeke her, I ſaw a little Boate driuen vppon the ſhoare, wherein I found a Babe of fiue dayes olde, wrapped in a faire Mantle of Scarlet, hauing about the Necke this Chayne: I pittying the Childe, and deſirous of the Treaſure, carryed it home to my Wife, who with great care Nurſed it vp, and ſet it to kéepe Shéepe. Here is the Chayne and Jewells, and this Fawnia is the Childe, whome I found in the Boate: What ſhe is, or of what Parentage I know not: but this I am aſſured, that ſhe is none of mine.

Pandoſto would ſcarce ſuffer him to tell forth his Tale, but that he required the time of the Peace, the manner of the Boate, and other circumſtances; Which when he found agréeing to his count: Suddenly he leapt from his ſeate, and kiſſed Fawnia, wetting her tender chéeks with his Teares, and crying, My Daughter Fawnia, Ah my ſweete Fawnia, I am thy Father Fawnia.

This ſudden paſſion of the King, draue them all into a Maze, eſpecially Fawnia and Doraſtus. But when the King had breathed himſelfe a while in this newe ioy, hee rehearſed before the Embaſſadours the whole matter, and how hee had intreated his Wife Bellaria, for Jealouſie, and this was the Childe whome he ſent to flote in the Seas.

Fawnia was not more Joyfull that ſhee had found ſuch a Father,

ther, then Doraſtus was glad he ſhould get ſuch a wife. The Embaſſadours reioyced that their young Prince had made ſuch a choyce: that thoſe Kingdomes which through enmitie had long time bene diſſeuered, ſhould now through perpetuall amitie be vnited and reconciled. The Citizens and Subiects of Bohemia (hearing that the King had found againe his Daughter which was ſuppoſed dead, ioyfull that there was an Heyre apparant to the Kingdome) made Bonefires and ſhewes thorough out all the Cittie: The Courtiers and Knights appoynted Juſtes and Turneyes, to ſignifie their willing mindes in gratifying the Kings hap.

Eightéene dayes being paſt in theſe Princely ſportes, Pandoſto willing to recompence old Porrus, of a Shepheard made him a Knight: which done, prouiding a ſufficient Nauie to receiue him and his retinue, accompanied with Doraſtus and Fawnia, and the Sycilian Embaſſadours: he ſailed towards Sycilia, where he was moſt princely entertayned by Egiſtus: who hearing this comicall euent, reioyced greatly at his Sonnes good happe, and without delay (to the perpetuall ioy of the two young Louers) celebrated the marriage. Which was no ſoner ended, but Pandoſto (calling to minde how firſt he betrayed his friend Egiſtus, holy his Iealouſie was the cauſe of Bellariaes death, that contrarie to the Law of Nature hee had luſted after his owne Daughter) moued with theſe deſperate thoughts, he fell in a melancholy fit, and to cloſe vp the Comedie with a Tragicall ſtratageme, he ſlew himſelfe: whoſe death beeing many dayes bewayled of Fawnia, Doraſtus, and his déere friend Egiſtus: Doraſtus taking leaue of his Father, went with his wife and the dead Corps into Bohemia: where, after it was ſumptuouſly entombed, Doraſtus ended his dayes in contented quiet.

FINIS.